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THE *Blue Jay*

VOL. XVII, No. 3

SASKATOON, SASK.

SEPTEMBER, 1959

Welcome A. O. U., Regina, August 25-30

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Dance of the Whooping Crane

Photo by F. W. Lahrman

Published quarterly by

THE SASKATCHEWAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
REGINA, SASK.

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BLUE JAY CHATTER

This issue of the **Blue Jay** coincides with a very important event for naturalists in Western Canada—the coming of the A. O. U. convention to Regina. We welcome members of the American Ornithologists' Union from all parts of the continent and hope that the 1959 meeting will be worthwhile in every way. The programme of papers sessions and field trips will occupy the best part of a week (August 25-30). In conjunction with these activities there will be many opportunities for informal association among amateur and professional birdmen whose common pursuit of a fascinating study brings them together for this meeting.

We shall look forward to seeing at the A. O. U. meeting in Regina some of the members of the S.N.H.S. who recently gathered at Moose Mountain Provincial Park for the society's annual weekend of field trips. The summer meeting, it always seems to us, proves that the Saskatchewan Natural History Society is more than the **Blue Jay** magazine—it is a happy association of people with common interests who come together to share them. The idea of the summer gathering was born in 1954, and although the first meeting was "rained out" at Greenwater, we have since had five very successful get-togethers. It is a real pleasure to look back upon those June weekends at Fort Qu'Appelle, Madge Lake, the Cypress Hills, Emma Lake and Moose Mountain.

At the recent summer meeting we had the pleasure of getting to know Bill Gunn, Field Secretary of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Dr. Gunn has been here on the prairies recording prairie bird song. Knowing his recordings in the "Sounds of Nature" series, we are looking forward to hearing our own familiar birds similarly presented. One of Dr. Gunn's records that we like best, presenting the voices of forest, marsh and lake through a summer's day in Algonquin Park, was brought to mind by the wild call of the loon heard frequently at Moose Mountain.

Also at the Moose Mountain meeting was Francis R. Cook, a young member of the staff of the National Museum of Canada now in Saskatchewan collecting amphibians and reptiles. Having these serious students of wild-life among us at our summer meeting helped to give us an appreciation of the extensive and continuous study programmes being carried on by trained research men. The paths of the layman and the scientist do not cross often enough; for that reason, the informal contacts made at Moose Mountain seem to us especially important. For the same reason, we feel that it will be through such associations that the A.O.U. meeting in Regina will have its most lasting influence. The young people in the group, especially, cannot help being inspired by this opportunity to associate with serious "birdmen". Many of us feel that we ourselves missed such inspiration and direction during formative years. A little encouragement from trained and enthusiastic naturalists at that point can be really helpful. We feel that the nesting study of the horned lark in this issue shows such a happy indebtedness on the part of an enthusiastic young naturalist to guidance received from persons of training and experience.

The Blue Jay

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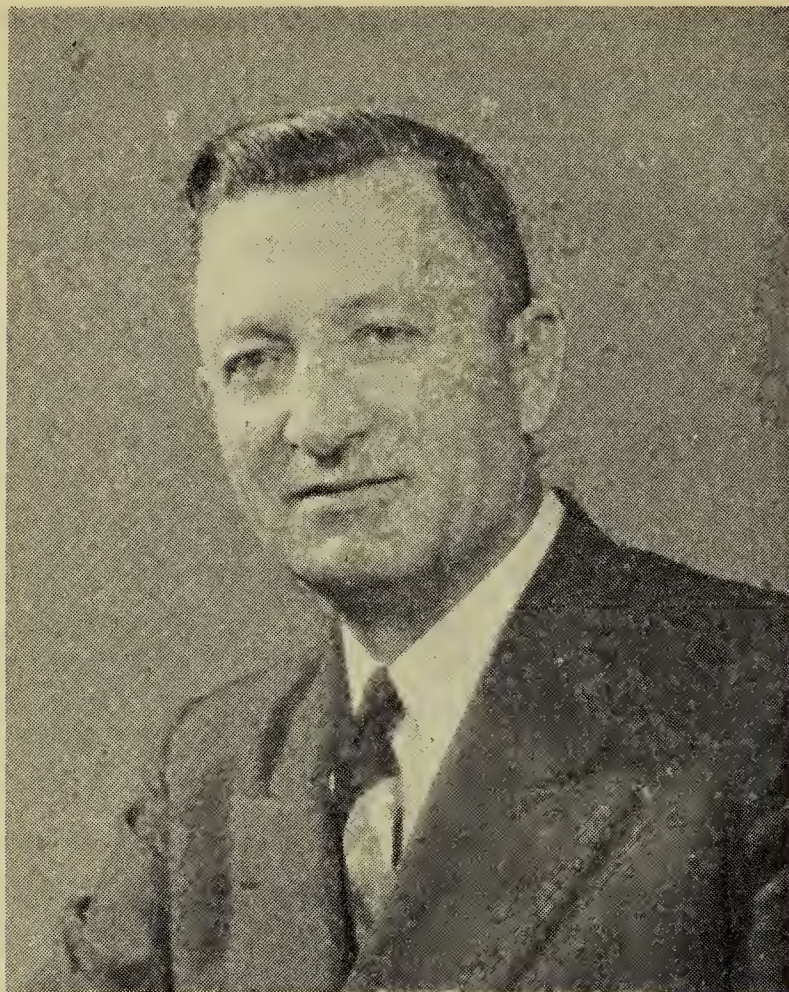
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Congratulations to the A.O.U.

on its 77th Stated Meeting, Regina, August 25-30, 1959

by the Honourable A. G. Kuziak, Minister of Natural Resources, Govt. of Saskatchewan



The Honourable A. G. Kuziak

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to extend a welcome to the members and guests of the American Ornithologists' Union on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and particularly on behalf of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, which is a part of my Department of Natural Resources.

We in Saskatchewan consider it an honour that you have selected our province as the location for your 77th Stated Meeting. Furthermore, we consider it a tribute to the many people of our province who have contributed down through the years to the observation and scientific study of bird life. The enthusiastic response of the people to my department's Museum of Natural History and to other undertakings such as the Blue Jay—the journal of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society—are indications of the tremendous interest in nature that exists in this part of Canada.

I hope you will pardon my prejudice if I say that you could not have selected a more appropriate setting for your annual meeting, not only because of the interest of our people but because of the richness of our bird life. I can only hope that the sandhill cranes, geese, ducks, and other birds which are displayed in our museum will appear for you on your field trips to provide a suitable climax for your meeting.

To me, this gathering of people from all walks of life and from all parts of North America is a welcome note in a world more and more given to political strife and to the worship of man-made structures. I am thankful for organizations such as the A.O.U. which are dedicated to the awakening of interest in, and the scientific study of nature.

I hope that your meeting here will stimulate further interest in the study of nature. And I hope that you, like the migratory birds that cross our borders each spring and fall, will enjoy your stay and return again many times to Saskatchewan.

A Message from the President

by **E. Manley Callin**, Fort San, Sask.



E. M. Callin, President, Saskatchewan Natural History Society

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, I take great pleasure in extending a warm and hearty welcome to all those who are attending the A.O.U. convention in Regina. Some of you are from other parts of Canada and some of you are neighbours from the south. Wherever your home, our doors are open and we hope that you will feel at home in Saskatchewan. May your stay be most pleasant. We have much in common with our sister provinces and with our great neighbour to the south and appreciation of our precious wildlife heritage is yet another area of common ground. Through the miracle of migration,

mother nature even makes it possible for us in the north to enjoy the very same birds that you enjoy in the south.

We feel greatly honoured that Saskatchewan has been chosen as the site of this convention. May we be excused in humbly accepting this as some measure of recognition of Saskatchewan's interest and progress in the field of natural history. It will most certainly provide us with additional inspiration and incentive for further progress.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Callin is in the process of preparing a check-list of the birds of the Qu'Appelle Valley, based on personal observations recorded over a period of 32 years in that area.

The American Ornithologists' Union

The American Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1883, is the leading ornithological organization in the Western Hemisphere. Its aim — the advancement of ornithological science — is effected through the programmes of its annual meetings (held in various parts of the United States and Canada), its publications,

and the activities of its committees and members.

The Union publishes a quarterly journal, **The Auk**, received without charge by all members. Each issue contains major articles on birds, shorter general notes, reviews of new books, and a survey of recent periodical literature. At intervals, a com-

mittee of the Union prepares the "A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds" (fifth edition, 1957), which sets the standard for scientific and English nomenclature of our birds and indicates their known ranges. Other recent publications include such books as "Fifty Years' Progress of American Ornithology" (1933) and "Recent Studies in Avian Biology" (1955). A multi-volume "Handbook of North American Birds" is now in preparation.

Membership in the Union is open to all interested persons. For significant contributions to ornithology or to the Union, members may be advanced to the class of Elective Members, or be honoured further by election to the small class of Fellows. Annual dues are \$5.00. On payment of \$100.00 (which may be effected in four equal annual instalments) one may become a Life Member exempt from all further dues. A Patron is a member who has given \$1,000 or more to further the activities of the Union. As of September 1958, the total membership of the Union was 2,652.

As most New World residents with a scientific interest in birds — whether as professionals or amateurs — are members of the Union, it is here feasible only to give brief sketches of the present officers and of the living past presidents. This throws some light on the activities of those currently most active in the Union's affairs.

PRESENT OFFICERS

President: Ernst Mayr is not only an ornithologist, but one of the world's leading biologists. His range of interest is vast; his knowledge encyclopaedic. He is Agassiz Professor at Harvard College. For many years, he was associated with the American Museum of Natural History, where he published numerous papers, chiefly on the birds of the South Pacific, especially New Guinea. His most famous work is the lucid and brilliant book, "Systematics on the Origin of Species," which played a major role in the general acceptance of what is often called the "new systematics." As author or co-author he has written popular handbooks, "Birds of the Southwest Pacific," and "Birds of the Philippines." Dr. Mayr was honored last year at London by election as Vice-President of

the International Zoological Congress. He will serve as president of the next International Ornithological Congress.

First Vice-President: George H. Lowery, Jr., professor of ornithology at Louisiana State University, is well-known for his work on migration, notably the organization of continent-wide observations of birds migrating across the face of the moon. His wide ornithological interests are indicated by his book, "The Birds of Louisiana," his papers on Mexican birds, and his membership on the A.O.U. Committee which produced the 1957 "Check-list of North American Birds." He is Chairman of the new A.O.U. committee on Classification and Nomenclature.

Second Vice-President: Dean Amadon is Chairman of the Bird Department of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Dr. Amadon has written papers on a variety of ornithological subjects, but his best known work is probably "The Hawaiian Honeycreepers." His administrative duties and time-consuming hospitality to students visiting the great bird collection in his charge have not prevented his acting as co-author of a popular work "Land Birds of America" and undertaking a new book on the raptors of the world. He was a member of the committee that produced the recent A.O.U. Check-list.

Secretary: Herbert G. Deignan is Associate Curator of Birds at the United States National Museum. He is regarded as an expert on the avifauna of Asia. Among his many works is "The Birds of Northern Thailand." Few ornithologists have his grasp of the intricacies of zoological nomenclature.

Treasurer: Charles G. Sibley is professor of ornithology at Cornell University. His major papers have been on towhees and on the significance of hybridization in speciation. Recently he has published studies on the use of electrophoretic tracings of egg-white proteins in determining the relationships of birds. He is at present in England preparing a book on avian biology.

Editor of 'The Auk': Eugene Eisenmann, a lawyer, is a Research Associate at the American Museum of Natural History. His major interest is indicated by "The Species of Middle American Birds," perhaps

explained by the fact of his birth in Panama. More local activities are suggested by his former presidency of the Linnaean Society of New York and the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs.

LIVING PAST PRESIDENTS

1926-1929: Alexander Wetmore, one of the world's most distinguished ornithologists, was until recently executive head of the Smithsonian Institution. He has been president of the International Ornithological Congress. Remarkably productive, he has written on almost every phase of ornithology, contributing popular as well as technical books and articles. As Chairman of the committee that produced the 1957 A.O.U. Check-list, he had major responsibility for that book. If any specialties can be singled out, they are classification, avian paleontology, and neotropical bird distribution. Currently, Dr. Wetmore has been working on the avifauna of Panama, where every year he spends months in the field.

1937-1939: Herbert Friedmann is Curator of Zoology at the United States National Museum. He early achieved fame for his book on "The Cowbirds," and has continued the study of parasitic birds with many papers, including a recent monograph "The Honey-guides." He was author or co-author of the last three published volumes of "The Birds of North and Middle America," and co-author of the "Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Mexico." He is an authority on bird iconography.

1939-1942: James P. Chapin is Associate Curator Emeritus of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History. Though he has published on many subjects, his chief fame comes from the monumental four volume "The Birds of the Belgian Congo." After his retirement, he returned to live and do further field work in the Belgian Congo. He is now back in New York with a view to working up his new data.

1945-1948: Hoyes Lloyd, long an official of the Wildlife Division of the Department of Resources and Development of Canada, has played a leading role in conservation activi-

ties not only in Canada but on the international scene. He has served as Chairman of the Canadian Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation and as Vice-President of the International Committee.

1948-1950: Robert Cushman Murphy is Lamont Curator Emeritus and former Chairman of the Bird Department of the American Museum of Natural History. He is the world's leading specialist on sea birds. His great work is the fascinating two volume "Oceanic Birds of South America." Dr. Murphy writes with extraordinary colour and charm; he has published popular books on his travels and is co-author of "Land Birds of America." He has been president of the National Audubon Society.

1953-1956: Alden H. Miller is professor of zoology at the University of California and director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Perhaps his major contribution has been the training of ornithologists, not only as a university teacher but as editor of **The Condor**. Despite these duties, he continues much original research in the field as well as in the laboratory, currently on the factors controlling breeding cycles. Among his many important works are "Speciation in the Avian Genus **Junco**," "The Distribution of the Birds of California," and "Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Mexico," Part 2 (co-author and editor-in-chief). He served on the committee which produced the recent A.O.U. Check-list.

BIRDS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN RIVER

The Saskatchewan Natural History Society is pleased to announce the publication of **The Birds of the Saskatchewan River, Carlton to Cumberland**, by C. Stuart Houston and Maurice G. Street. This is the Society's Special Publication No. 2, following W. H. Beck's **Guide to Saskatchewan Mammals** (Spec. Publ. No. 1, S.N.H.S., 1958) which was printed last fall. Copies of **The Birds of the Saskatchewan River** are available at \$1.50 from E. L. Fox, 1053 Gladmer Park, Regina.

Spring in the Qu'Appelle Valley

by **Robert W. Storer**, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Sunk in a seemingly endless expanse of prairie and aspen parkland, the Qu'Appelle Valley always comes as a surprise. Even the approaches are unexpected, the roads dipping abruptly from the prairie and winding through wooded side coulees which open out onto the mile-wide glacial valley. The 500-foot walls of the valley are moulded into soft, restful contours, the north-facing slopes more wooded and bushy than the drier south-facing ones, which consist of heavily grazed prairie vegetation with brush and small trees only in the bottoms of the coulees. Deltas of the major tributary coulees have dammed the Qu'Appelle River, forming the four Fishing Lakes — Qu'Appelle (or Pasqua), Echo, Lebret (or Mission), and Katepwa. The town of Fort Qu'Appelle lies on the largest of these deltas, and it was here, in a cabin on the east end of Echo Lake, that my family and I spent two months this spring.

Won over by the enthusiastic recommendations of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History and a local amateur birder, Manley Callin, I came to the region on a project sponsored by the National Science Foundation, to study the behaviour and anatomy of grebes. The region was a good one for the purpose: Horned Grebes were numerous on the potholes above the valley, Pied-bills nested both on these potholes and in the marshes in the valley, Red-necked Grebes nested on the large lakes, and the Western Grebe colony in the marsh at the head of Qu'Appelle Lake was a large one. Eared Grebes were found on two sloughs within 30 miles of town. Before the grebes settled on their breeding grounds, there were days when all five species could be seen from our cabin, and I was able to watch many displays from that point.

To one interested in water birds this valley has much to offer. When we arrived in late April there was little open water on the lakes, but ducks were already present in abundance. Almost every day we saw

flocks of Sandhill Cranes, Whistling Swans, Canada Geese, or White Pelicans moving westward up the valley. The strong west winds accompanying the breakup brought a heavy bumper of water weeds to the shore in front of our cabin. In this mass of vegetation, aquatic insects, especially back-swimmers, were abundant and much sought after by birds. Indeed, we could watch a remarkable variety of water birds all day long from our front window. Coots were there in large numbers, Franklin and Bonaparte Gulls in breeding plumage feeding side by side provided interesting comparisons, dabbling ducks and, later, shorebirds added more variety, and a pair of Horned Grebes went so far as to start a nest platform there.

The three miles or more of marshes starting at the west end of Qu'Appelle Lake were especially rich in bird life. Floods several years before had destroyed much of the emergent vegetation, but the reed beds were beginning to make a come-back, especially along the channel of the river which wound through the shallower water of the marsh. Already the reed beds supported colonies of Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Western Grebes. Large numbers of ducks and coots were found on the more open water of the marsh, which also attracted migrating Whistling Swans, White Pelicans, and Canada Geese. Near the upper end of the marsh there were grassy areas where Leconte and Sharp-tailed Sparrows were numerous and mudflats and shallows where shorebirds fed along with ducks. While great numbers of shorebirds were not found, a remarkable variety occurred within 25 miles of Fort Qu'Appelle. In all, I found 29 species, including Whimbrel, Long-billed Curley, Hudsonian Godwit, Knot, and Piping Plover, all decidedly uncommon in the region.

We left the Qu'Appelle Valley with many pleasant memories of the scenery, birds, and warm Western hospitality, and with the hope of returning for another spring's field work with Manley Callin.

Whooping Crane Dance During Migration

by **Fred W. Lahrman**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

The spectacular display or "dance" of the Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) has been well described in **The Whooping Crane** by Robert P. Allen 1952. National Audubon Society, Research Report No. 3). On page 175, however, Mr. Allen, owing to lack of observations, states: "Whether or not the Whoopers dance while on the spring migration route is uncertain."

While field-checking Whooping Cranes throughout the southern part of the province, Mr. Fred G. Bard and I have had at various times the privilege of observing the dance of the Whooping Crane, during both the spring and fall migration period. In most cases dancing was similar to that reported by Allen, involving spread and flapping wings and erratic leaping.

On April 21, 1956, at Pasqua, at approximately 7:00 a.m. M.S.T., a pair of Whoopers with one young which we observed feeding on stubble suddenly started dancing. The adults danced very actively for several minutes and then resumed feeding. The young, however, had appeared bored with the proceedings and had kept on feeding (**Blue Jay**, Vol. XIV, No. 2).

On April 24, 1956 at 8:30 a.m., at Melaval, two adults and two

young which were feeding on a stubble field suddenly went into a dance on top of a small knoll (see Fig. 1). One of the adults began bowing and spreading its wings, then started to leap high with flapping wings, and was then joined by the other three which leaped and flapped in a similar manner for a brief period after which all flew to a small slough where they drank water. After the two parents had left (see **Blue Jay**, Vol. XIV, No. 2, page 39) the two young were observed to dance occasionally while feeding in the field and again when at the slough.

At Govan, two adult cranes were watched at intervals for fifteen days, from October 17 to October 31, 1958. These cranes spent most of their time on the shore of Last Mountain Lake near a long sandy point. Usually during the early morning and late afternoon the cranes would fly as far as several miles to the nearby stubble fields to feed. On October 19, late in the afternoon, the cranes went into a dance just before leaving the water to go out to feed. First they stood upright with necks stretched as high as possible and with feathers depressed, making them appear very slim. They strutted about close together, then went

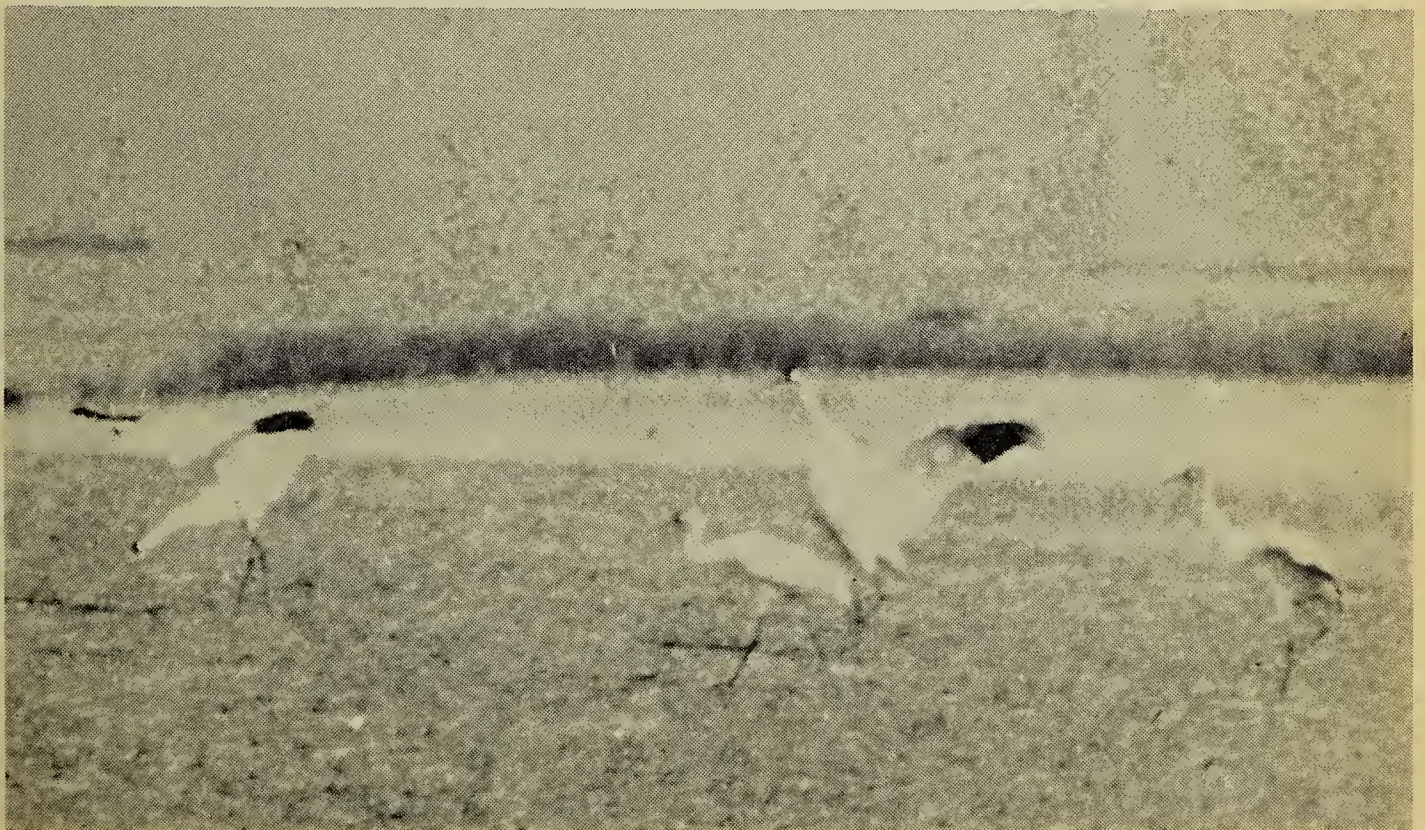


Fig. 1. Whooping Cranes at Melaval, April 24, 1956

into the most beautiful and spectacular dance that I have ever witnessed. They ran down the beach in a south-westerly direction facing the wind, which was fairly strong, with wings spread, half flying and gliding, half skipping and jumping as they went. Occasionally they sprang very high into the air, approximately fifteen feet or more, then coasted down. Sometimes, one would stop and then the other would dance around it with wings spread, bowing and tossing debris into the air. Finally, they both danced together again. Once they charged into a flock of ducks which were resting in shallow water near shore, causing them to fly up. The whole affair lasted approxi-

mately four minutes, during which time they travelled about two hundred yards down the beach. After strutting about for a moment after the dance, they flew out to feed (4:13 p.m. M.S.T.)

On October 27, when I was photographing these same two birds again at Govan while they were feeding on the stubble at 4:30 p.m., they posed briefly but beautifully, against the evening sky with spread wings reflecting the last rays of the setting sun (see Figs. 2, 3, 4) then went into their hopping-flapping dance. One crane picked up a weed stalk and tossed it over its shoulder. The dance lasted for only about a minute, then they resumed feeding.



Fig. 2: The Whooping Crane dance, Govan, Sask., Oct. 27, 1958. The crane on the right "picked up a weed stalk and tossed it over its shoulder."



Fig. 3: They posed briefly "with spread wings reflecting the last rays of the setting sun."



Fig. 4: Then "went into their hopping-flapping dance." Photo from kodachrome (500 mm. telephoto lens, f. 5.6, 1/15 sec.). All photos by F. W. Lahrman.

A. C. Bent's 1917 Trip to Saskatchewan

by Stuart Houston, Yorkton, Sask.

The "In Memoriam" tribute to Arthur Cleveland Bent by Wendell Taber, published in **The Auk** of October, 1955, included a listing of Bent's field trips. Bent's visits to Saskatchewan in 1905 and 1906 are well known, and were fully documented in his paper on the "Summer Birds of Southwestern Saskatchewan" which appeared in **The Auk** in October 1907 and January 1908. References to his experiences on this trip also appear throughout his **Life Histories of North American Birds**. However, Taber also listed another trip to Saskatchewan: "1917. Northern Saskatchewan alone." This latter item caught my fancy as I could find nothing published on the results of this trip.

The mystery has been resolved by Mrs. Madeleine V. Bent, his widow. She wrote on Sept. 29, 1958: "Mr. Bent actually accomplished no field work in 1917 as he was ill during his entire stay, with a severe sinus disturbance. He remained some time there, hoping to throw it off. However, he grew worse and finally returned, and never found the opportunity to go again."

Mrs. Bent was later able to find two letters written by Mr. Bent during the trip. The first, dated May 24, 1917: "Wynyard, Sask. I have changed my mind and am not going to the place I planned, but shall start tomorrow morning in an automobile for a 25 mile ride up around the

Lake to Quill Lake town, where I learn there is a good hotel. I shall size up the country on the way and if I see any place on the way that looks good to me, I may arrange to stop there. You see I do not know anything about this country and cannot find out much about it, so I shall look it over. If I do not find anything better than I have seen so far, I shall move on farther west."

The second letter, dated May 30, reads: "Prince Albert, Sask. I arrived here last night and have been out all day exploring. I find I can stay at a hotel here and go out early in the morning, and back late at night to various places I want to explore. So far I have found very little that interests me, and the country does not look suitable for the birds that I want to find. I may find some better country tomorrow, or next day but if not I shall "beat it" either back to Quill Lake for a few days or back home."

Mrs. Bent commented in a letter to me on Nov. 20, 1958 that "Mr. Bent must have taken ill soon after this. Feeling discouraged, he gave up and came home." We were thus deprived of what would likely have been valuable contributions to our knowledge of Saskatchewan ornithology.

I wish to thank Wendell Taber, F. Seymour Hersey, and particularly Mrs. Madeleine V. Bent, for the assistance they have given me.

First Records of the Barred Owl in Saskatchewan

by Stuart Houston, Yorkton, Sask.

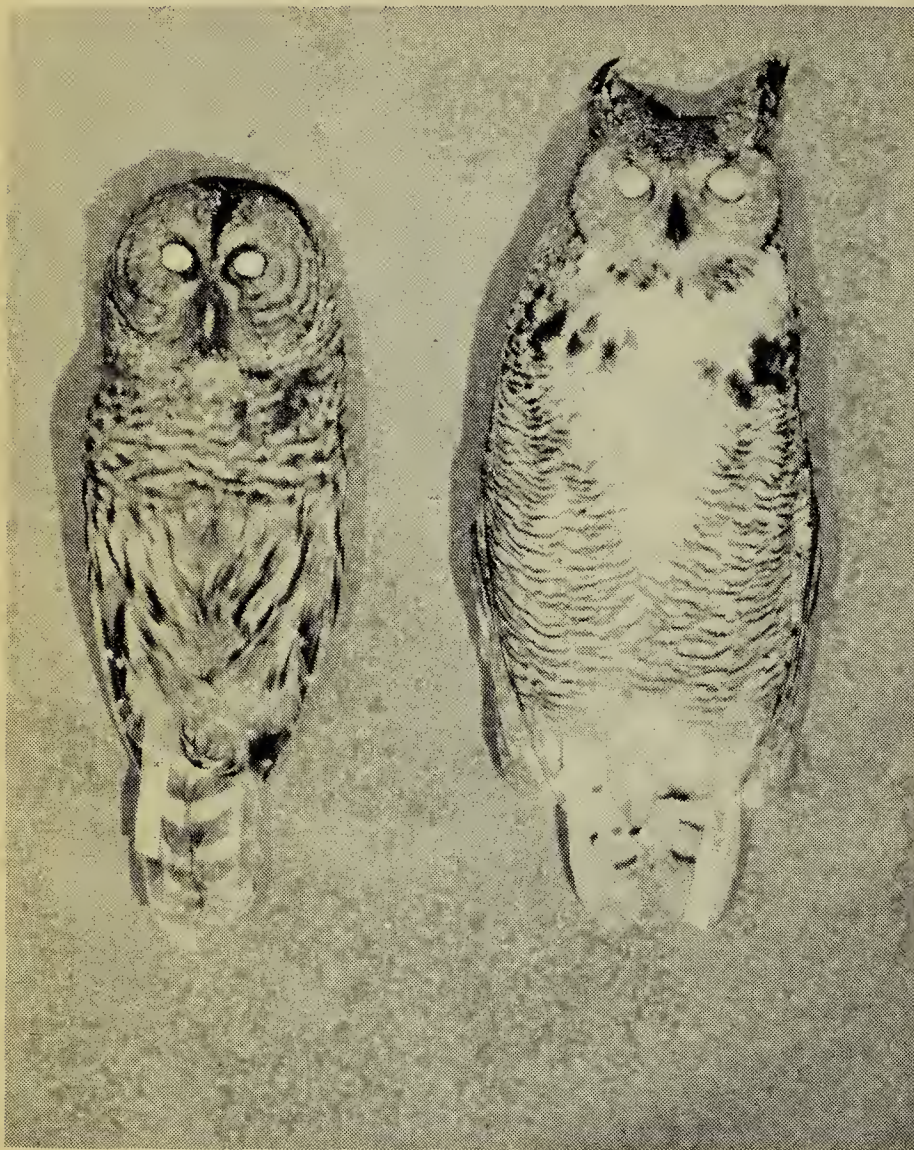


Photo by B. C. Shier

Study skins of Barred Owl (left) and Great Horned Owl (right)

On March 12, 1955, in the Porcupine Mountains about 30 miles north of Norquay, I saw an owl at dusk that I identified as a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). However, this was only a relatively brief observation at over 100 feet with 7x50 binoculars under imperfect lighting conditions, and I did not report it. In succeeding years, I returned to the area several times in the hope of obtaining a specimen, but without success. Every trapper and hunter I met was questioned and shown the pictures of the various owls in Peterson's **Field Guide**.

No further definite information about the Barred Owl was obtained until June, 1958, when my wife and I flew into Cumberland House for five days of birding at Saskatchewan's oldest settlement. It was here that Samuel Hearne, John Richardson, Thomas Drum-

mond and Roderick MacFarlane recorded some of the first observations of birds in what is now Saskatchewan. At Cumberland House we visited Russell Robertson, manager of the Hudson's Bay Co. fur lease, whose cabin is picturesquely situated some three miles upstream along the Old Channel of the Saskatchewan River. Robertson gave a perfect description of the call of the Barred Owl, and told how he had first heard one in March, probably in 1948, along the portage between his cabin and Egg Lake. In June of the same year he had shot the owl and compared it with the illustration in Taverner's **Birds of Canada**, thus satisfying himself as to its identity. He had not seen one since.

Robertson kindly wrote this spring to say that he had heard a Barred Owl calling on the evening of March 8 (1959). He later collected the bird which he mailed from The Pas on June 4, and the roughed-out and salted skin was then forwarded to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History (see photo).

Robertson reports further that Sam Waller has two male specimens of the Barred Owl in his little museum at the Pas, Manitoba. Waller reports that they were collected at Reader Lake near The Pas, less than 20 miles from the Saskatchewan boundary, on September 15, 1941 and October 11, 1946.

Another Barred Owl was shot in early December, 1958 at High Hill, northeast of Kelvington, by Steve Waychesen near his mink traps in heavy spruce and poplar bush near a lake shore. At the time, he did not realize how scarce it was, and the specimen was not preserved.

Red-Bellied Woodpecker at Regina

by **Robert W. Nero**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History



Photo by B. C. Shier

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*) taken at Regina, May 26, 1959.

On May 23, 1959, George F. Ledingham observed a female Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*), a species not previously reported for the province, in the grounds at the Legislative Buildings in Regina. The bird was seen again on May 25 by Frank H. Brazier and Dr. Isabelle Coleman. A number of others tried but failed to see it on that day, but in the early morning of May 26 Ledingham found it again among some small trees on the edge of Lake Wascana. He telephoned me at once and with his co-operation the bird was collected, thus providing a permanent and positive record. The specimen has been prepared as a

study skin for the collections of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, where it may be examined. The specimen was an adult female in apparently good health although the rectrices were noticeably abraded. It was moderately fat, had well-developed ova (largest ovum — three mm.), and weighed 80 grams. The gizzard contents included fragmentary parts of numerous insects including coleoptera and diptera (adult and sub-adult forms), several very small feathers, several particles of grit (quartz) and surprisingly, five whole fish vertebrae (about two mm. in size) and several bony fragments. The whole mixture had a decidedly

fishy odor suggesting that the bird had dined on all or part of a minnow. There are a great many dead minnows along the shores of Wasicana Lake at this season.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker is a species of the southeastern United States woodlands, breeding west to Texas and eastern Nebraska and north to southern Minnesota and New York (**A.O.U. Check-list**, 1957). It occurs "very rarely in extreme southern sections" of Ontario (Snyder, L.L., 1951. **Ontario Birds**, p.142), and has been reported in Manitoba: a female seen at Brandon (200 miles east of Regina) on January 1, 1956 (Bird, R. D., 1956. **Blue Jay**, 14:7); a pair at Winnipeg throughout the month of June, 1941; and a male at Sanford in January, 1942 (Cartwright, B. W., 1942. **Can. Field-Nat.**,

56: 45-46). It is known accidentally in Colorado, South Dakota and North Dakota. A specimen was taken in Nelson County, North Dakota in September, 1897 (Wood, N. A., 1923. A preliminary survey of the bird life of North Dakota. Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool., Misc. Pub. No. 10, p. 48). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen in South Dakota on May 12, 1958 at Mitchell, (**Audubon Field Notes**, August, 1958, Vol. 12:364); and during the winter (Dec. 1, 1958—March 31, 1959) three were seen at Sioux Falls and four along the Big Sioux River near Brookings, South Dakota (**Audubon Field Notes**, Vol. 13:303). We are indebted to W. Earl Godfrey, Curator of Ornithology, Natural History Branch, National Museum of Canada, for assistance in locating the above records.

A Report on Spring Migration in the Regina Area, 1959

by **Fred W. Lahrman**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

Last year members of the Museum staff and of the bird group of the Regina Natural History Society submitted records of the spring migration in the Regina area to the Museum where I kept a list of first arrival dates. Records submitted up to April 30, 1958 were published in the **Blue Jay** (Vol. XVI, 59). A similar co-operative study was made this year. Using the records of many interested field observers in the Regina area, the following list of first arrival dates has been prepared. The list includes records submitted up to June 1, 1959 when Ralph Ostoforoff and I saw two flocks (ca. 12 and ca. 30) of Buff-breasted Sandpipers in a dry field 10 miles east of the city.

FIRST ARRIVAL DATES, SPRING 1959

Date	Species
April 20	Horned Grebe (1)
April 29	Eared Grebe (2)
May 1	Western Grebe (1)
April 18	Pied-billed Grebe (1)
April 25	Double-crested Cormorant (1)
April 11	Great Blue Heron (2)
May 8	American Bittern (1)
March 31	Whistling Swan (9)
March 22	Canada Goose (2)
March 27	White-fronted Goose (small flock)

Date	Species
March 27	Snow Goose (1)
April 11	Blue Goose
March 21	Mallard
April 3	Gadwall (3)
March 22	Pintail (20 plus)
April 1	Green-winged Teal (2)
April 18	Blue-winged Teal (1)
March 21	American Widgeon (2)
March 22	Shoveler (1)
April 2	Redhead (12)
April 1	Ring-necked Duck (3)
April 6	Canvasback (10 plus)
April 6	Lesser Scaup (several)
March 24	Common Goldeneye
April 6	Bufflehead (2)
April 26	Ruddy Duck (2)
March 22	Common Merganser (3)
April 6	Red-breasted Merganser
April 29	Sharp-shinned Hawk (1)
March 21	Red-tailed Hawk (2)
May 3	Broad-winged Hawk (1)
April 25	Swainson's Hawk (2)
March 21	Rough-legged Hawk (1)
March 11	Bald Eagle (1)
March 22	Pigeon Hawk (1)
April 9	Sparrow Hawk (1)
April 9	Sandhill Crane (flock)
April 16	American Coot (2)
April 27	Semipalmated Plover (4)
May 19	Piping Plover (1)
March 26	Killdeer
May 5	American Golden Plover (flock)
May 18	Black-bellied Plover (2)

Date	Species	Date	Species
May 27	Ruddy Turnstone (1)	April 18	Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1)
April 18	Common Snipe	April 25	Water Pipit (1)
May 26	Long-billed Curlew (1)	April 26	Sprague's Pipit (1)
May 5	Spotted Sandpiper	May 29	Cedar Waxwing
May 4	Solitary Sandpiper (1)	March 27	Loggerhead Shrike (2)
April 26	Willet (2)	May 16	Solitary Vireo (1)
April 8	Greater Yellowlegs (3)	May 16	Red-eyed Vireo (1)
April 6	Lesser Yellowlegs (2)	May 18	Philadelphia Vireo (1)
May 2	Pectoral Sandpiper (small group)	May 10	Warbling Vireo
May 27	White-rumped Sandpiper	May 2	Black-and-white Warbler
April 8	Baird's Sandpiper (4)	May 5	Tennessee Warbler (1)
May 20	Dunlin (1)	April 28	Orange-crowned Warbler
May 2	Long-billed Dowitcher (1)	May 18	Nashville Warbler
May 15	Stilt Sanpiper (2)	May 10	Yellow Warbler (2)
May 2	Semipalmated Sandpiper	May 22	Magnolia Warbler (1)
June 1	Buff-breasted Sandpiper (2 flocks)	April 19	Myrtle Warbler (1)
April 25	Marbled Godwit (3)	May 3	Blackpoll Warbler (1)
April 29	Hudsonian Godwit (25)	May 3	Palm Warbler
April 30	Sanderling (1)	May 22	Ovenbird
April 27	American Avocet (3)	May 3	Northern Waterthrush (12 plus)
April 25	Wilson's Phalarope (2)	May 16	Mourning Warbler (1)
May 9	Northern Phalarope	May 5	Yellowthroat
April 25	Herring Gull (2)	May 17	American Redstart
April 28	California Gull (several)	March 25	Western Meadowlark (2)
April 4	Ring-billed Gull (1)	April 26	Yellow-headed Blackbird (2)
April 19	Franklin's Gull (3)	March 28	Redwinged Blackbird
May 3	Bonaparte's Gull (3)	May 11	Baltimore Oriole
April 30	Forster's Tern (3)	April 18	Brewer's Blackbird
May 15	Black Tern (1)	April 8	Common Grackle (1)
April 18	Mourning Dove (1)	May 2	Brown-headed Cowbird (1)
April 19	Burrowing Owl (2)	May 16	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
April 6	Long-eared Owl (1)	May 18	Black-headed Grosbeak
May 27	Common Nighthawk	April 30	Purple Finch (1)
May 20	Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1)	May 18	American Goldfinch (1)
April 11	Belted Kingfisher	May 2	Rufous-sided Towhee (1)
April 11	Yellow-shafted Flicker (1)	April 28	Savannah Sparrow (1)
April 18	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1)	April 26	Vesper Sparrow
May 10	Eastern Kingbird	May 18	Lark Sparrow (1)
May 3	Western Kingbird (1)	March 21	Slate-colored Junco
April 19	Eastern Phoebe (1)	April 9	Oregon Junco (1)
April 13	Say's Phoebe (1)	March 21	Tree Sparrow (many)
May 2	Least Flycatcher (1)	May 2	Chipping Sparrow (1)
May 11	Western Wood Pewee (1)	May 3	Clay-colored Sparrow (1)
April 25	Tree Swallow	May 5	Harris' Sparrow. (several)
April 20	Bank Swallow	April 28	White-crowned Sparrow (1)
April 18	Barn Swallow (1)	May 2	White-throated Sparrow (1)
April 29	Purple Martin (1)	April 8	Fox Sparrow (1)
March 7	Common Crow (1)	April 27	Lincoln's Sparrow (3)
May 15	Red-breasted Nuthatch (1)	May 3	Swamp Sparrow
May 2	Brown Creeper (1)	April 6	Song Sparrow (1)
May 16	House Wren (1)	May 3	McCown's Longspur (6)
May 26	Long-billed Marsh Wren	March 24	Lapland Longspur (flock)
May 14	Rock Wren (1)	April 11	Chestnut-collared Longspur
May 9	Mockingbird		
May 18	Catbird		
May 15	Brown Thrasher		
March 27	Robin		
April 19	Hermit Thrush (6)		
May 2	Swainson's Thrush		
May 5	Gray-cheeked Thrush		
March 22	Mountain Bluebird (2)		
April 8	Townsend's Solitaire (1)		
April 8	Golden-crowned Kinglet (1)		

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Townsend's Solitaire—observed occasionally from April 8 until April 28, when three were seen. Reported again April 29 (1) and May 5 (1).

Mockingbird—May 9 to May 23. At times during this period three were seen separately, and on one

occasion, two of these were seen together.

Rock Wren—Seen within Regina city limits on May 14.

Red-Bellied Woodpecker—first Saskatchewan record (see p. 95).

Scarlet Tanager—One female observed by G. Ledingham May 18, confirmed by F. Brazier and others.

Duck, species ?—A female first sighted by F. Brazier and collected on June 1 by R. W. Nero is believed to be a hybrid, possibly a Black Duck x Wood Duck! (More on this later.)

Lewis' Woodpecker—Female collected at Tuxford, not far beyond the Regina area, by Richard W. Fyfe on June 5.

Third Annual May Day Count

SASKATOON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, MAY 24, 1959

Each year the Saskatoon Natural History Society sponsors a May 24 bird count. This year 13 observers in four groups uncovered 112 species within a 7½ mile radius of Saskatoon, 24 more than last year and eight more than in 1957, the first year that a count was made. The day was almost perfect for birding, the temperature varying from an early morning low of 38 to an afternoon high of 85. One of the groups was on the road by 4:00 a.m. picking up the calls of the Great Horned Owl and numerous cock pheasants in the Moon Lake area. Highlights of the day included a White Pelican on the Saskatchewan River, unusually late for this area, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk nesting at Maple Grove just two miles south of the city. Lark Sparrows, first noted in this area last May, were again recorded.

The list of birds seen follows. Last year's totals are given in brackets.

Horned Grebe, 2 (12); Eared Grebe, 1 (0); Western Grebe, 4 (1); White Pelican, 1 (0); American Bittern, 1 (just outside the study area) (0); Mallard, 114 (130); Gadwall, 15 (8); Pintail, 48 (73); Green-winged Teal, 2 (6); Blue-winged Teal, 72 (85); American Widgeon, 15 (50); Shoveler, 32 (33); Wood Duck (1 at Pike Lake, just outside the study area. Rare in Saskatoon.); Red-head, 1 (0); Canvasback, 16 (23); Common Goldeneye, 3 (0); Ruddy Duck, 2 (1); Lesser Scaup, 22 (32); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2 (0); Red-tailed Hawk, 3 (7); Swainson's Hawk, 2 (0)—nest; Marsh Hawk, 12 (11); Peregrine Falcon (Hogg), 1 (0); Pigeon Hawk, 1 (1); Sparrow Hawk, 2 (2); Ruffed Grouse, 3 (0); Sharp-tailed Grouse, 3 (0); Ring-necked Pheasant, 14 (0); Gray Partridge, 2 (4); American Coot, 37 (32); Semipalmated Plover, 7 (0); Killdeer, 38 (54); Golden Plover, 39 (0); Black-bellied Plover, 12 (7); Common Snipe, 1 (0); Spotted Sandpiper, 5 (2); Willet, 17

(12); Greater Yellow-legs, 1 (Hogg); Lesser Yellow-legs, 5 (0); Pectoral Sandpiper, 34 (22); White-rumped Sandpiper, 1 (17); Baird's Sandpiper, 15 (20); Least Sandpiper, 54 (8); Dowitcher, 19 (0); Semipalmated Sandpiper, 22 (86); Marbled Godwit, 7 (12); Sanderling, 10 (0); Wilson's Phalarope, 74 (39); Northern Phalarope, 12 (0); California Gull, 6 (3); Ring-billed Gull, 56 (43); Franklin's Gull, 52 (332); Common Tern, 1 (1); Black Tern, 22 (126); Mourning Dove, 62 (25); Great Horned Owl, 1 (0); Flicker, 16 (15); Hairy Woodpecker, 2 (1); Downy Woodpecker, 3 (0); Eastern Kingbird, 18 (39); Western Kingbird, 2 (0); Eastern Phoebe, 2 (just outside study area); Least Flycatcher, 38 (82); Horned Lark, 9 (6); Tree Swallow, 17 (51); Bank Swallow, 12 (0); Barn Swallow, 13 (53); Cliff Swallow, 1 (10); Black-billed Magpie, 48 (48); Crow, 67 (123); Black-capped Chickadee, 3 (6); House Wren, 11 (44); Catbird, 2 (9); Brown Thrasher, 8 (17); Robin, 94 (95); Swainson's Thrush, 1 (2); Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1 (2); Veery, 5 (0); Mountain Bluebird, 22 (14); Sprague's Pipit, 3 (0); Loggerhead Shrike, 11 (4); Starling, 35 (27); Warbling Vireo, 5 (7); Black-and-White Warbler, 1 (0); Tennessee Warbler, 3 (1); Yellow Warbler, 67 (170); Blackpoll Warbler, 1 (0); Yellow-throat, 2 (1); American Redstart, 3 (0); House Sparrow, 323 (310); Western Meadowlark, 150 (51); Yellow-headed Blackbird, 33 (47); Redwinged Blackbird, 64 (113); Baltimore Oriole, 11 (37); Brewer's Blackbird, 115 (40); Common Grackle, 23 (40); Cowbird, 48 (67); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2 (0); Goldfinch, 5 (36); Rufous-sided Towhee, 16 (7); Savannah Sparrow, 19 (15); Baird's Sparrow, 12 (Hogg and Shadick), (4); Vesper Sparrow, 115 (70); Lark Sparrow, 3 (in widely separated areas) (6); Slate-colored Junco, 1 (0); Chipping Sparrow, 24 (18); Clay-colored sparrow, 153 (170); White-throated Sparrow, 1 (1); Song Sparrow, 35 (19); Lapland Longspur, 62 (0); Snow Bunting, 1 bright individual spotted by Dr. Gerrard (0).

OBSERVERS: Dr. R. M. Bremner, Helen Mann, Jim Hogg, Grace Hogg, John Shadick, Pern Cordrey, Dr. and Mrs. J. Gerrard, Jonathan Gerrard, Michael Miller, Bob Folker, Murray Cox, Frank Roy (compiler).

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Shorebird Paradise

by Edgar T. Jones, Edmonton.



Photo by Cy Hampson

A flight of shore birds settles on a muddy flat.

Saskatchewan; like Alberta, has, I am sure, some outstanding places where large, varied concentrations of migrating birds gather on their way to their breeding grounds. Such a place in Alberta is Beaverhill Lake, just 50 miles east of Edmonton near one of our main highways. This large shallow lake (it is no deeper than six feet anywhere) has since time immemorial been a major stopping place for thousands upon thousands of migrating shorebirds.

The late Dr. William Rowan, well known for his many scientific studies of birds, spent many of his collecting days camped on the shores of this unique lake. In those days a long, low-lying point jutting almost two miles out into the lake, creating a shallow bay at the south end of the lake, a veritable paradise for waders! Dr. Rowan's accounts of the myriads of shorebirds passing through this area in days gone by

make fascinating reading for anyone who has any interest in shorebird migration.

Today this lake, due to a gradual drying up, has lost its fabulous Francis Point, but nevertheless it still has a great attraction for birds. The mud and sand flats along the shoreline attract huge flocks of Northern Phalarope, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers, along with hordes of the smaller "peeps." Here, too, may be seen the less common waders—White-rumped Sandpipers, Hudsonian Godwits, Black-bellied Plover, Knots, Dunlin, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs and many others. The procession is steady for at least two weeks during the latter part of May. As flocks move on north, around the first week in June, the supply dwindles and the northward migration is through for another year. To give an idea of the variety to be encountered here, I

cite the following extract from my log of two days' observations, May 23 and 24, 1957. No fewer than 22 species were recorded, some of them real rarities! They included: Killdeer (several), American Golden Plover (15), Black-bellied Plover (32), Ruddy Turnstone (52), Common Snipe (1), Long-billed Curlew (1) (rare), Whimbrel (23) (rare), Willet (several), Lesser Yellowlegs (numerous), Knot (28), Pectoral Sandpiper (numerous), Baird's Sandpiper (numerous), Least Sandpiper (numerous), Long-billed Dowitcher (100), Stilt Sandpiper (150), Semipalmated Sandpiper (numerous), Buff-Breasted Sandpiper (27) (rare), Marbled Godwit (5 nests, each with 4 eggs), Sanderling (numerous), American Avocet (2 nests, 7 and 4 eggs), Wilson's Phalarope (5), Northern Phalarope (100 plus).

After a brief period on their Arctic breeding grounds the shorebirds again head southward. As early as July 15 the procession begins. For some rea-

son the southward movement seems to be much more staggered and, as a result, the numbers of birds seen at one time considerably smaller. However, the following extract from my log of July 27 gives some idea of what to expect: Semipalmated Plover (35), Killdeer (7), Black-bellied Plover (15), Willet, Greater Yellowlegs (4), Lesser Yellowlegs (12), Pectoral Sandpiper (8), White-rumped Sandpiper (3) (rare), Baird's Sandpiper (10), Least Sandpiper (5), Long-billed Dowitcher (50 plus), Stilt Sandpiper (2), Semipalmated Sandpiper (numerous), Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit (1), Sanderling (5), Wilson's Phalarope (20 plus), Northern Phalarope (60).

To the amateur Beaverhill Lake offers a fascinating opportunity to compare and learn the numerous species of waders. To the experienced ornithologist, it is a place where anything can turn up, and usually does! May the day never come when the plough turns the sod of Beaverhill Lake.

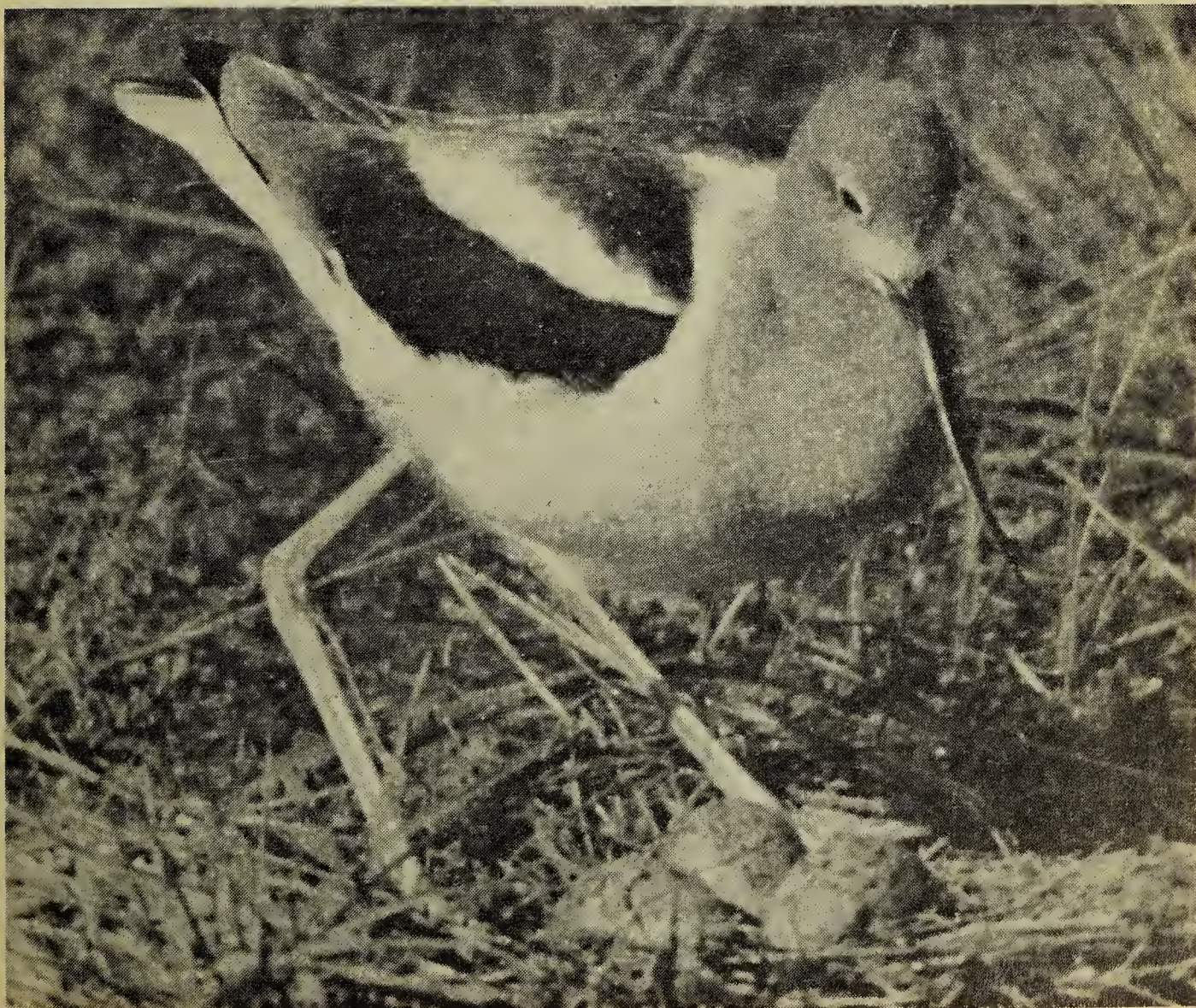


Photo by Cy Hampson

A colourful Avocet settles over its eggs. This beautiful shorebird is one of the breeding residents of Beaverhill Lake: every year a few pairs nest here in what is undoubtedly one of the most northerly breeding areas in Alberta.

The Fall of the Ravens

by Maurice G. Street, Nipawin, Sask.



Young Ravens at Nipawin, May 10, 1959.

A pair of Common Ravens have built their nest each year since 1953 in tall trees growing in a deep ravine $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Nipawin. This ravine is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long and about 200 yards wide at its widest and is well over 100 feet in depth. Both white and black poplar, white spruce, and considerable stands of birch clothe its sides and bottom, along which flows a spring-fed stream two feet wide and several

inches deep, summer and winter.

Here the ravens, probably the same pair, build their nests in a huge black poplar growing from the ravine floor. These black poplars are branchless up to 35 feet or more and their girth makes them almost impossible to climb without special equipment. The ravens nest very early, long before the snow begins to thaw, and the young have usually left their nest before the middle of May. On May 10 this spring, on a visit to this ravine, I discovered that their nest, which had been built on top of their 1957 nest (not used in 1958) had fallen out of the tree. The cause of this I do not know—perhaps it was due to high winds, or to the accumulated weight of the old and the new nest plus the weight of the young. Two dead young were found in the tangled mass of sticks that had fallen well over 40 feet. These were about half grown. However, the adults were still present and showed much concern while I made my way down into the ravine and when I was examining the fallen nest. So a search for young that might have survived the fall was begun. A tangled mass of fallen trees and thick bushes made searching very difficult. About 30 feet from the nest an adult, I think the female, alighted on a branch a few feet above me and hammered her beak repeatedly on the branch in an uncertain manner. And almost at my feet I found the first of four fully-feathered young. The other three were found at distances up to 100 feet from the fallen nest. All four were banded with Fish and Wildlife Service bands, and are, I believe, the first nestling ravens to be banded in Saskatchewan.

S.N.H.S. CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS

CHRISTMAS CARDS (folder-type 4" x 5"): Two designs—(1) Black-and-white photo of Snowy Owl by Cy Hampson, Edmonton; (2) Kodachrome photo of Boggy Creek by R. W. Fyfe (1958 card—limited number). Price—\$1.00 per doz.

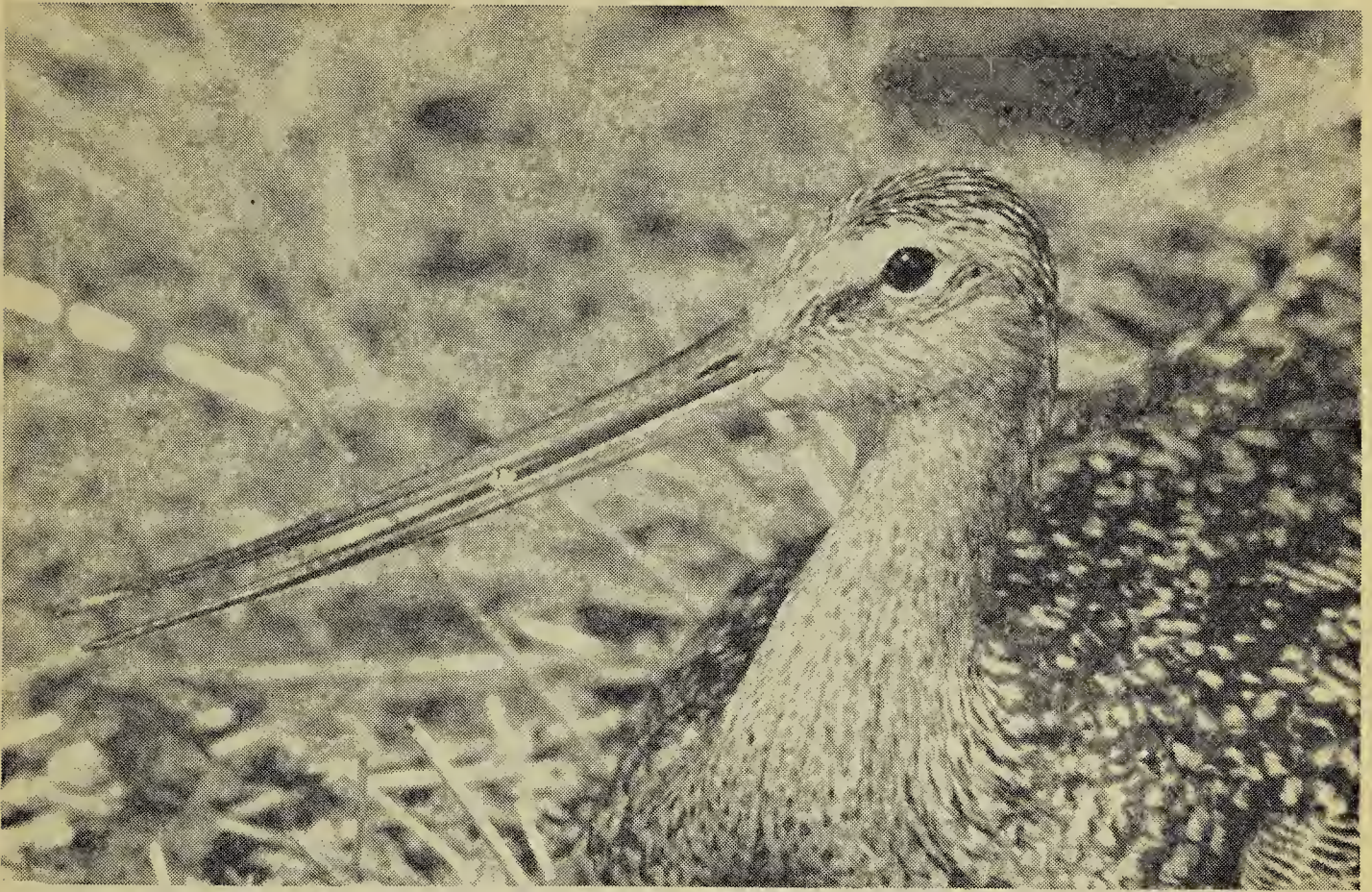
HASTI-NOTES (folder-type 4" x 5"): Kodachrome of Western Red Lily by F. W. Robinson (1958 card). Price \$1.00 per doz.

CALENDARS 1960: Coloured reproduction (6" x 9") of American Avocet taken near Regina (Kodachrome by Elmer Fox). Price \$1.00.

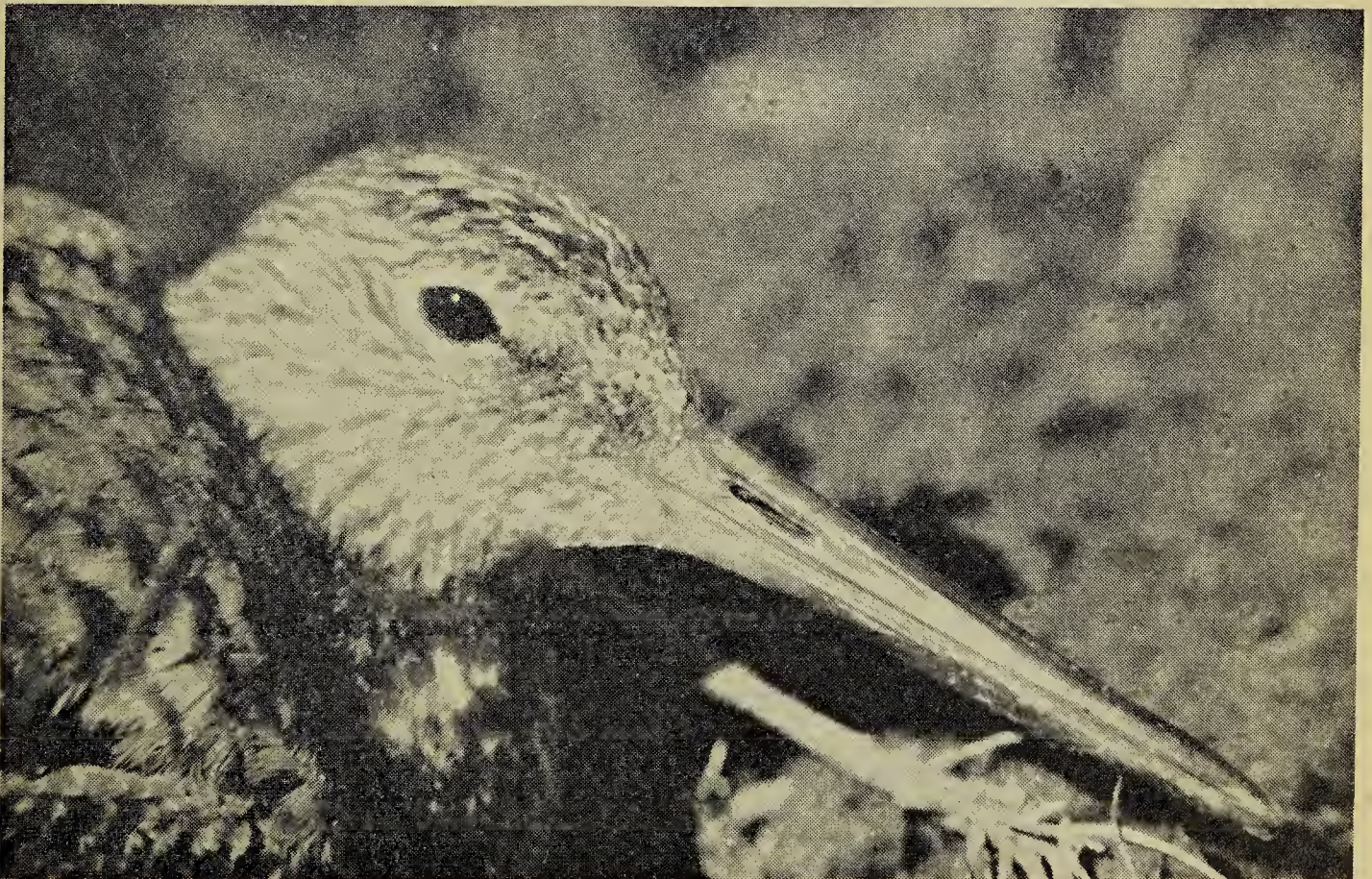
Order cards and calendars from **Margaret Belcher, Secretary, Blue Jay, Regina College, Regina.**

Birds With Long Noses

by Doug Gilroy, R. R. #2, Regina.



Photos from kodochromes
Marbled Godwit on nest near Brora, Sask., June, 1958.



Willet on nest near Brora, Sask., June 4, 1958.

In a competition for long noses the Marbled Godwit clearly wins the prize among birds in this rural Regina area! Both these birds must, of course, take second place to the Long-billed Curlew, which is occasionally seen here.

Distraction Display by Western Meadowlark

by Robert W. Nero, Saskatchewan Museum of Nature History.



Sketch by Fred W. Lahrman

Distraction display or "injury feigning," i.e. the "broken-wing act," occurs regularly among some species of birds when disturbed at the nest, for example the Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*), but it is irregular or uncommon or even unknown in certain others. It has been recorded in the Icteridae only a few times for the Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) and the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), according to information received from Frederick V. Hebard, Philadelphia, who has long been interested in this behaviour pattern. Dr. Wesley E. Lanyon, assistant curator of birds, American Museum of Natural History, who has specialized in a study of meadowlarks, writes: "I . . . have never personally witnessed it, though I've certainly had plenty of opportunity to do so if such a behaviour pattern were commonplace." (Personal correspondence, September, 1958). During the past ten years during which I have been studying the Redwinged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) and other icterids, I have observed this behaviour once in the Bobolink and recently at two nests of the Western Meadowlark.

On May 18, 1956, at 6.20 a.m. C.S.T. a Western Meadowlark, presumably

a female, was observed giving distraction display after being flushed from a nest containing five eggs. The nest was located on open grazed prairie within the city limits in northwest Regina. According to my notes made at the time, the bird ran or hopped rapidly along on the ground with head lowered, wings and tail stiffly outspread and touching the ground throughout the display. Unfortunately, I did not take time to record the state of incubation.

This year (1959) on June 4, at about 8.00 p.m., Fred W. Lahrman observed distraction display given by a female Western Meadowlark flushed from a nest on heavily-grazed pasture land near Wascana Creek in Regina. The nest contained two newly-hatched young and two eggs. A third egg, which was pipped and contained a dead chick, lay outside the nest. The bird flushed at about five feet and fluttered away from the nest low over the ground straight away for about 20 feet (possibly touching the ground). It then hopped rapidly along the ground in an erratic course in a peculiar hunched posture with the feathers of the back raised and the head held low and the wings closed (see sketch), and then it suddenly flew away.

I went out the following morning

(June 6), arriving at the nest at about 5.15 a.m. The female, which had been brooding four young, flushed from the nest when I was five feet away. She flew off fast and low, just above the short grass, for some 15 feet, then dropped to the ground and ran rapidly straight away from me, dodging in between short clumps of grass, for about 100 yards. During this amazingly long run I watched her with binoculars and noted that the bird was in a hunched position all the time, with head lowered, and seemingly crouching low. The feathers of the back were raised and the tail was spread on the left side only, so that the left white tail pattern was clearly visible. At one time during the run, as the bird reached an open area of nearly bare ground, she raised the folded right wing slightly, but only momentarily. When about 100 yards away she was joined by the male which silently walked toward her, and which appeared to thrust hard at the ground once or twice with its beak, I think, in a gaping movement (displacement feeding?) The female finally stopped and ruffled up her feathers, a common comfort movement following intense behaviour, and my observations were then discontinued.

Miss Joyce Dew visited the nest on June 8 at 8.00 p.m. and the female flushed from the nest at about 30 feet, flying low and quickly away from the nest. At this time there was only one young in the nest. (We have no clues to the whereabouts of the other three.)

In an attempt to record distraction behaviour of the meadowlark on film I visited the nest accompanied by Fred Lahrman and Richard Fyfe at about 5.00 a.m. on June 9. This time the female flushed when we were about 40 feet from the nest. She slipped out of the nest and at once, hunched and crouching, scurried rapidly away for about 30 yards—long before our cameras were set up! On June 12 the nest was empty and apparently deserted.

It is clear that distraction display is rare in the *Icteridae*, but even though a behaviourism may have been observed only once or twice, if it occurs at all it is a part of the total behaviour pattern of a species. The low frequency of occurrences in icterids may be due to the seemingly greater aggressiveness of these birds.

Distraction display is considered to be the result of conflict between tendencies to escape and attack. That is, a bird flushed from a nest seeks to escape but still, to some extent, is motivated (or wants) to protect the nest. Redwings, for example, seldom fly far from the nest when disturbed and it may be that in this species escape tendencies are so much lower than attack tendencies that conflict between these drives is lacking, and consequently no distraction display is given. The Bobolink and the meadowlarks (both ground-nesters), it seems to me, are less aggressive at the nest-site, i.e. escape tendencies are much stronger than attack tendencies. The occasional appearance of this display in these species may be due to moments of higher attack or lower escape tendencies. According to Simmons (see below) various types of "predator reactions" are known for certain species which have been well observed and these behaviours are thought to occur at different levels of conflict. At one level, the full distraction display occurs. The few observations recorded for the meadowlarks may represent moments of conflict due to a balance between escape and attack tendencies, possibly linked to a particular state of incubation and a time when the incubating bird is reluctant to leave the eggs or young, the conflict being between fleeing and staying. Less noticeable displays under ordinary conditions of low conflict may be overlooked. Fred W. Lahrman has pointed out to me that it is his impression that meadowlarks flushed from the nest frequently fly low for several yards before rising, sometimes striking vegetation with their wings. Movies of this behaviour might show more clearly elements of distraction display which are otherwise difficult to discern.

British ornithologist K. E. L. Simmons has paid considerable attention to distraction display, which he defines as forms of conspicuous ritualized behaviour releasing and directing hunting behaviour in a predator (1955. The nature of the predator-reactions of Waders towards humans; with special reference to the role of the aggressive -, escape -, and brooding drives. **Behaviour**, Vol. 8, Part 2-3; 130-173). Simmons states that the full form of distraction-display is due to an intense conflict between escape and attack, with a

high aggressive content related to the parental-drive. Simmons conducted a large number of experiments with waders to elicit predator-reactions. Among other interesting things he found that most species showed far less fear toward a human lying down than to one standing. He points to a need for objective methods of in-

vestigation and interpretation in the study of predator-reactions and indicates a need for precise work on individual species.

I should like to thank Dr. Frank McKinney, Delta Waterfowl Research Station, for critical examination of this note and for calling my attention to the work by Simmons.

Great Horned Owl Distraction Display

by R. W. Fyfe, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.

Predatory birds rarely exhibit any form of distraction display or "injury feigning" when their nests are approached. Bent (*Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*, Vol. II) indicated that such display is exhibited only occasionally by predatory—species—other than the Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) in which it occurs regularly. On two separate occasions, May 14 and June 3, 1959, I witnessed distraction display by a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) when we visited the nest. On May 14 when we approached the nest, which then contained two newly-hatched young, both parents flew to the opposite hillside about 100 yards distant and remained standing on the ground continually hooting and screaming as we approached the

nest. Then one bird suddenly began walking slowly, alternately dragging and flopping its right wing on the ground. At the same time, presumably the same bird began to utter most un-owl-like screams. This display continued for a short period while the bird moved about twenty feet over the ground; the bird then stood still though occasionally screaming as before. On our second visit, the birds behaved as before except that when flying to the hillside, one bird suddenly fell into low brush as if it had been shot. A moment later it reappeared, walking and dragging its wing as before, all the while uttering the same cry of distress. In each case, the display had lasted only while we were in the immediate vicinity of the nest.

1959 Great Horned Owl Banding

by Stuart Houston, Yorkton.



Photo by Cliff Shaw

Young Great Horned Owls in nest

Our 1958 owl banding (22 young in 10 nests) was considered worthy of mention as "a fine example of

field work" in the continent-wide summary of nesting records in the October 1958 issue of **Audubon Field Notes**. But my enthusiastic helper, Bill Horseman, was still not satisfied and determined that we should set a new record in 1959.

Sunday, May 17, was planned as the "big day" and we started out at 5 a.m. for the Saltcoats district. Horseman knew of ten nests and an additional eight had been located by patients of mine. We were encouraged to find that only one nest had been deserted and none destroyed, of the eighteen nests we visited that day. The residents of this area seem more tolerant of owls than they were in the past.

The number of young raised to maturity is often a fairly good index of the food supply; judging by this the owls had a good year. One nest contained four young ready to leave the nest, eight nests had three young



Photo by Cliff Shaw

Dr. Houston (left) and Bill Horseman (right) band a young Great Horned Owl.

each, four nests had two, and four had one. Thus we banded 40 Great Horned Owls in a single day. I was fortunate in having three excellent climbers: Bill Horseman and his friend Lorne Barker of Saltcoats, and Gary Anweiler of Melville.

Horseman continued to scout for nests, and in addition one was found by Anweiler at Melville and four at Stornoway by Ken Swartz and Stanley Zazelenchuk. These necessitated a few early morning and late evening trips until finally the last two late nests were visited on June 6. The final total was 70 Great Horned Owls banded; 67 for 30 nests, plus three other young already out of the nest

and flying short distances.

We saw a good sampling of the nestling's food in each nest. Rabbits and pocket gophers were the predominant items, but grebes, ducks, crows and rats were frequently found. Not a single upland game bird was represented, though a Ruffed Grouse was drumming on his well-worn log less than twenty feet from the base of the tree containing one of the owl's nests. Neither was a single domestic fowl encountered in any of the thirty nests examined.

We have also banded 12 Long-eared Owls in four nests and 16 Red-tailed Hawks in nine nests to date this year.

A Study of Early Spring Nesting of the Horned Lark in the Area of Kindersley, Sask.

by **Glen A. Fox**, Kindersley, Sask.

During April of 1959, I made a study of eight nests of the Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). The study was carried out over a period of 35 days and a total of 70 hours. Observations of incubation and brooding were aided by a 20x spotting scope. None of the birds studied was marked.

ENVIRONMENT

The study area was a typical grassland area of the prairies. The nests were located on a golf course. Vegetation in this area included prairie grasses, sage, cactus, dock and cat-tails. Mammals noted in this area were the meadow vole, deer mouse, masked shrew, Richardson's ground

squirrel and white-tailed jack-rabbit.

TERRITORY

Both sexes arrived about March 15 and established territory within three or four days. The male proclaimed his territory by singing from an appropriate perch. Territorial defense against other horned larks consisted of chasing the intruder for a period of usually a minute or less. Bodily contact during the pursuit was rare, being observed only once when the intruder was driven to the ground. The female protested territorial violation with a "te-te" call. Territorial defense was stronger during brooding and the latter part of the incubation period than it was during the early part of incubation. The male tolerated other species in his territory. The male was observed chasing a chestnut-collared longspur and a ring-billed gull in the same manner that a kingbird attacks a crow. Average size of the territory was 8,000 square feet.

MATING

Mating began as soon as territory was established and courtship flight was observed, as described by A. A. Allen as early as March 18: "Starting from the ground . . . the male bird mounts upward on a grand spiral until it is almost out of sight. Then, as a tiny speck in the blue, it hovers and sings. . . . closing its wings, the Lark plunges headlong towards the earth. Like a plummet it drops, until one feels sure he will see it dashed to death against the ground. For hundreds of feet it plunges unchecked; then, within a few feet of the ground, it spreads its wings, shoots abruptly forward, checking its momentum, and gracefully alights as though nothing had happened." (Allen, 1930).

NESTING

The nest site is picked and nest built by female only. The weight of one nest was 17 gms., average top diameter was 95 mm., interior diameter was 64 mm. and average depth was 55 mm. One nest was composed of 1,550 pieces of dead grasses, rootlets, paper and paper fibres.

Dummy nests were depressions in the ground which were possibly used as roosts for the off-duty bird. The depressions were unlined. Pettingill (1956) suggests that most ground nesting birds scratch numerous depressions in the ground and attempt

to mould them to suit their body contours before picking the final nest site. Each dummy nest contained excreta.

The eggs are greenish-grey, thickly spotted with dark olive and pale lavender, with an occasional dark brown scrawl. Ten eggs averaged 15.40 x 20.40 mm. in diameter and length. Average weight of the fresh egg was 2.8 gms. The fresh egg lost .15 gms. daily until it reached a low of 1.6 gms. the day before hatching.

The eggs were laid at daily intervals, usually in the early morning. The average number of eggs in the clutch was three.

Nesting starts in April and during 1959 the earliest laying was April 8, the earliest hatching April 19, earliest nest leaving May 2.

No parasitism occurred.

The female incubates the eggs both night and day as soon as the last egg is laid. The incubation period was 10 days. The eggs were turned at hourly intervals. The incubating bird showed a period of uneasiness for about five minutes before leaving the nest to feed.

DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG

The newly-hatched young was covered with a yellow-orange down on the capital, spinal, humeral and femoral tracts. Bill was grey-yellow in color with white egg-tooth. The eyes were closed. Feather tracts appeared at two days of age. Primaries protruded 3 mm. at four days of age and 10 mm. at six days and 24 mm. at eight days of age. Rectrices began to show at four days of age and were 18 mm. long on the ninth day. Young were completely covered with feathers at 10 days of age.

Based on one to five, the average weight of nestlings at hatching was 1.8 grams and they gained about 1.5 gms. daily for the first four days. The greatest gain of all took place between the fourth and fifth days where the nestling's weight increased 8.3 gms. The nestlings gained about 2 gms. daily from the fifth to eighth day of nestling life.

The wing measured 6 mm. when the young had hatched and increased about 2 mm. daily until the sixth day when an increase of 8.5 mm. occurred. An increase of 9.5 mm. occurred between six and seven days of age. The tarsus measured 12 mm. at hatching and gained 2 mm. daily



Fig. 1. Nest of the Horned Lark.

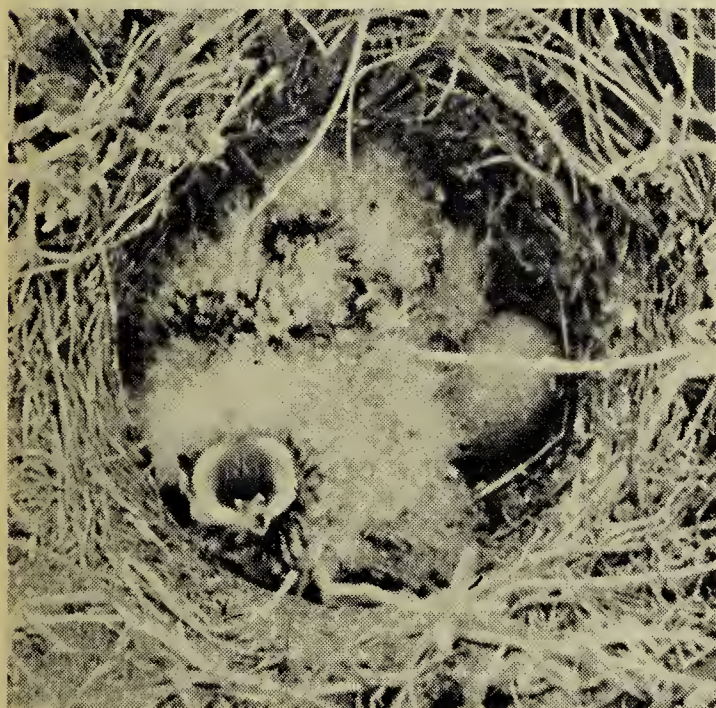


Fig. 3 Young at 7 days.



Fig. 4. Young at 9 days.

until the fifth day when it measured 22 mm. which was the final size. Culmen was 4.5 mm. at hatching and gained 1 mm. daily until the second day when it increased 1 mm. every three days.

The average bird measured as follows at nest leaving: wing, 45 mm., tarsus, 22 mm., culmen, 8 mm.

The diet of the young was mainly insects. A food call could be heard at three days of age, a low "zee-zee-zee."

The nestlings began to show fear when seven days old. The young answered their parents with a "tee-e" location call at ten days of age. They left the nest when 9 to 11 days old.

PARENTAL CARE

Brooding began as soon as young had hatched and continued until young were seven days old. The female did all of the brooding.

Feeding commenced when the young were one or two hours old. Feeding was carried out by both sexes and the number of feeding visits decreased as the young got older. The brooding female would get off the nest and allow the male to feed young; when the male left she would again settle on the nest and brood.

Nest sanitation was carried out by both sexes, the larger fecal sacs were carried away, the smaller ones eaten.

NESTING SUCCESS

Nesting success was very poor—25%. This was due to a freak two-day blizzard at the peak of incubation. Two clutches of eggs were lost due to freezing as well as one set of nestlings. Three clutches were lost to an unknown predator.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. J. B. Gollop and Mr. Alex Dzubin for their encouragement and help in criticizing the original manuscript.

Golden Eagles Nesting in Saskatchewan

by Richard W. Fyfe, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History



Photo by R. W. Fyfe

Fig. 1. Adult Golden Eagle arriving with food for eaglet.



Photo by R. W. Fyfe

Fig. 2. Eaglet at 3½ weeks of age.

There are two previous published reports of Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nesting in this province. The first report was that of Joseph Burr Tyrrell, 1892 (Annual Report Geological Survey of Canada VIII 1895); this was followed by D. Santy's report (**Blue Jay**, Vol. XVI, Dec. 1958) some 66 years later. As a direct result of Mr. Santy's report we made an attempt to locate and photograph these birds during the spring of 1959.

On May 19, Mr. Santy, Ralph Ostoforoff and I found an active nest on the bank of the South Saskatchewan River about three miles from the nest of the previous year. The nest was located on the north bank of the Snakebite Coulee on a sharp cutbank estimated to be about 300 feet high, the nest itself about 50 feet below the top of the cliff. On May 29, a return visit was made and a photography blind set up at about 120 feet above and to the northwest of the nest. Although this blind was used on four separate occasions for a total of 79 hours, only one photo of the adult bird was taken (see Fig. 1).

During the week of June 21-27, an additional and more extensive search was carried out in three of the major "Bad Land" areas of the

province. This resulted in three additional active aeries being located: another nest in the South Saskatchewan River Valley, one in the Big Muddy Valley, and one in the Killdeer Badlands. This brings the total of reported nests for Saskatchewan to six, with four known to be active during the present year.



Photo by F. W. Lahrman

Fig. 3. Portrait of eaglet at one month.

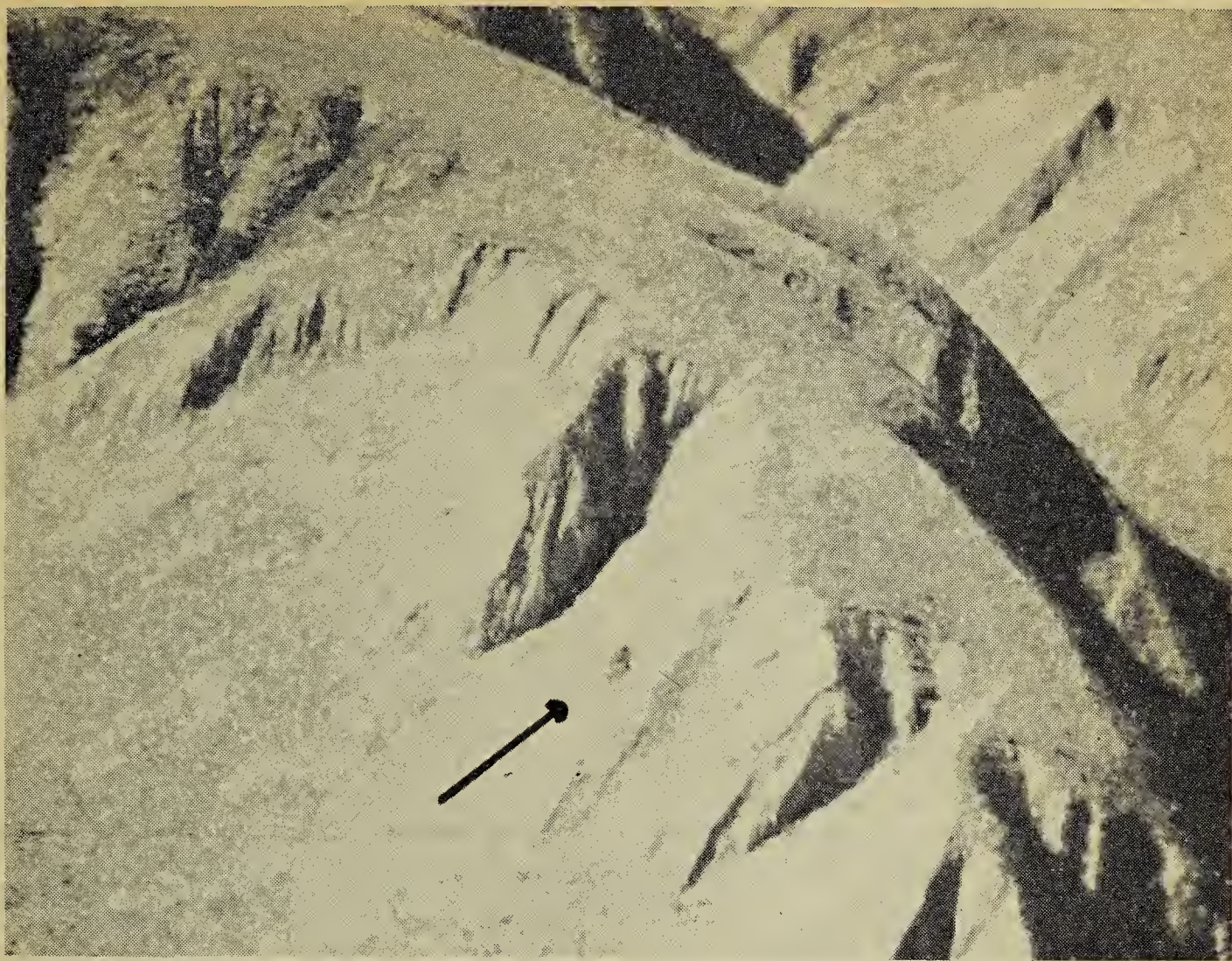


Photo by R. W. Fyfe

Fig. 4. Aerial photo of Golden Eagle's nest on north bank of Snakebite Coulee.



Photo by F. W. Lahrman

Fig. 5. The eagle's aerie overlooking Snakebite Coulee.

Catbird and Robin Construct the Same Nest

by **Maurice G. Street**, Nipawin, Sask.

On the morning of June 7, 1959, while working in my garden, I saw a Catbird carrying assorted nesting material including several scraps of paper and other rubbish into a large Red Elderberry bush within a few feet of a path at one side of the garden. The elderberry was in full blossom but only partially in leaf, and the movements of the Catbird could at times be quite clearly seen. A glance or two into the elderberry as I casually walked by on the path showed the nest to be in several closely growing forks about 3½ feet above the ground, and the nest was at this time but a handful of material. Later in the same day, I watched the nest-site from a distance of about 50 feet for over 30 minutes. During this time the Catbird made six trips with material. Another casual glance now showed the base of the nest to be nearly three inches thick.

Shortly before 7:00 a.m. the following morning the Catbird was again observed to be busily engaged in building. At noon as I walked up the path, I noticed a Robin with its beak full of weed stalks fly into the elderberry. This I thought to be purely accidental, as when I passed the nest-site the Robin flew from the farther side. At 6:45 a.m. the following morning (June 9) the Robin was again seen carrying

nesting material into the elderberry.

Now, being quite puzzled after seeing the Robin leave the bush minus whatever it had carried, I decided to spend a few moments watching, and to my great surprise I watched the Catbird make three trips and the Robin seven trips to the same nest before I had to leave at 7:30 a.m. A close-up inspection of the nest showed the bottom and walls of the nest almost completed. At noon, with only a few minutes to watch, I saw the Robin twice carry beakfuls of mud to the nest. The Catbird was observed in the near vicinity, but was not seen to go near the nest. Late the same evening neither the Robin nor the Catbird was observed to visit the nest in over an hour's watch.

At 7:00 a.m. June 10, the Robin was sitting on the nest and when it was flushed from it the nest was seen to contain one Robin's egg. A few moments later the Catbird was observed carrying material to another elderberry on the opposite side of the garden, approximately 50 feet away. The next day this new Catbird nest was over half completed, about four feet above the ground. At no time during the period when both the Catbird and Robin were building the same nest was any other than normal behaviour observed on the part of either species.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE NEAR BALDY LAKE, SASK.

—On June 25, 1959, a strange bird was observed near Baldy Lake south of Little Bear Lake along the Hanson Lake road by Chief Ecologist Nelson and Ecologists Maliepaard and Kuyt. The bird was almost the size of a Robin but a little slimmer and with a longer tail. The coloration of the bird was a non-descript gray (darker above) with conspicuous white areas on the outside of the tail and light-coloured patches on the wings. These patches and the white areas in the tail were especially noticeable while the bird was in flight or when it hopped about on a bulldozed pile of trees and stumps, apparently in search of food. An interesting feature was the bird's habit of flicking its tail on occasion, in the manner of a Waterpipit or European Wagtail, only not nearly as frequently

and executed with a more or less spasmodic jerk which clearly showed the white areas in the tail feathers.

The bird was tentatively identified as a Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). Two of us had not seen this bird before; I was better acquainted with the Solitaire, having observed it on several occasions in the mountains near the Salmon River, north of Campbell River, Vancouver Island. I had not, however, observed this little-known bird's habit of bobbing its tail.

We have been wondering whether the Solitaire has often been reported from our northern forested regions. I was rather surprised to see it, believing the bird to be confined to the mountains and ranges of B.C., Alberta, Yukon Territory and the western U.S. and Alaska.—**E. Kuyt**, Hudson Bay, Sask.

Seen by a Seer

by J. Boswell Belcher, Dilke, Sask.

There always seems to be something interesting or new to be seen. In the case of things that are new, being able to enlist the services of a "watcher" is quite a help in finding out what you have "seen."

Some time after seven in the evening on May 25, 1959 as I was coming home to supper on the tractor across a native prairie pasture I noticed a dark bird about the size of a cowbird with light-coloured wing patches fly around the edge of and into the clump of willows by a slough near the trail. This struck me as something unfamiliar so I stopped to investigate. The bird obliged by letting me get within about 15 feet of it as it perched in plain view on a lower branch of the willows and it stayed there until I had seen all I could see without making it fly. Then I went closer in order to make it move a little to get a different view of it before going on my way home. I reported to the watcher that I had seen a medium-plump, slate-coloured bird, about the size of a cowbird, with plain grey breast, light-coloured wing patches, round-shaped head with small dark bill and dark eyes, and a medium-long tail with light-coloured edges which were noticeable in flight. The watcher immediately went into a huddle with her bird books and re-

collections of unfamiliar birds, and after asking numerous questions, came up with the suggestion — a Townsend's Solitaire.

Next day a neighbour, Mrs. Martin, phoned to say that she and her 12-year-old son had been "seeing" a bird that day, of which she gave a description almost identical to mine. My sister, the "watcher", was able to say quite confidently: "You've seen a Townsend's Solitaire, very unusual for here as they nest in the mountains where I saw them when at Banff." The Mortins' farm is about one mile straight north of where I had seen the Solitaire the evening before, so it was quite likely the same individual.

Another interesting thing I noticed was the frequent occurrence of Yellow-headed Blackbirds early this summer. I believe I saw more of them this year than in all my life previously. Prior to the big rain late in June they were often around the windbreak, sometimes 15 or 20 at a time. I had never seen more than one or two at one time in this locality before, and then not every year. Other people in the district have also mentioned seeing them in unusual numbers and frequency. I do not recall having seen any since the big rain two weeks ago.

INFLUX OF YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS IN NIPAWIN AREA.

—My first observation of the Yellow-headed Blackbird in this district occurred June 3, 1932 near Armley. From then until this spring (1959) I saw fewer than 20 birds, nearly all of these since 1945. At Shindel's slough midway between Codette and Pontrilas, I found my first nest of this species, with six eggs, June 12, 1958. On May 9 this year I saw a male at a roadside pond east of Nipawin, and then over the course of the next two weeks Yellow-heads appeared almost everywhere. At a slough 15 miles west of Nipawin I counted 27 males (the males being easiest to count as for the most part they were singing and displaying

while sitting on the tops of cattails). Fourteen males were counted at Shindel's slough, eight miles west of Pontrilas, and 41 south and southeast of Nipawin. On May 22, at a large slough six miles southeast of Nipawin, I estimated that 80-100 pairs were present. Sitting quietly atop an old beaver house at the edge of this slough I had a great opportunity to listen to their queer songs and calls, also to watch the butterfly-like flight of the males while displaying. This was actually my first chance to get acquainted with the Yellow-heads. At nearly all sloughs now occupied by the Yellow-heads I notice a definite decrease in the number of Redwinged Blackbirds.—
Maurice G. Street, Nipawin, Sask.

TRANSFER OF FOOD IN AIR BY RED-TAILED HAWKS.—On June 26, 1959, I saw a marvelous feat performed by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. I was working beside a bush when I noticed a hawk, about 50 feet high, coming towards it with a mouse held in one foot. As it neared the bush another hawk, apparently its mate, flew out in the direction of, but slightly lower than the first. When the two were in a vertical line the top one dropped the mouse, which fell about two feet, when the lower one grabbed it with its talons, wheeled, and went back into the bush. The first hawk also turned and went in the direction from which it had previously come. The manoeuvre which these two birds went through was very interesting and the precision with which it was done made it all the more so.—**Jack Provick, Hazelcliffe, Sask.**

EDITOR'S NOTE: When we were out at Pilot Butte with an English birder Tim Dixon on June 15, 1959, a similar transfer of food between a pair of Marsh Hawks was observed by Dixon. He considered this observation one of the highlights of the days' birding.

SNOWY OWL CONCENTRATIONS NEAR DODSLAND SASK.—Predatory birds are generally solitary except during migration when they may flock together in quite large groups. An unusual concentration of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) was observed during the three days of March 30, 31, and April 1, 1959. During this period 55 Snowy Owls were seen in an area four miles by six miles, just west of Dodsland, Sask. All of the birds with one exception were in pairs, both birds of a pair being generally within 100 yards of each other. The area where the owls were found was dotted with small snow banks while immediately south, east and west no snow remained. Since the birds were seen almost exclusively in or near the snow this concentration may have been a direct result of the presence of snow in this limited area.—**R. W. Fyfe, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.**

SONG OF PARULA WARBLER (*Parula americana*) **RECORDED AT MOOSE MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK, SASK.**—Mr. and Mrs. J. Lane and I left the Chalet at Moose

Mountain Park about 10:00 a.m. on June 14, 1959, and had driven eastward only a few hundred yards when I heard the unmistakable "zeeee-up" song of a Parula coming in clearly from the north side of the road. We were still in the townsite and the bird was singing from a row of tall spruces beside the road, at the foot of somebody's garden. It was singing steadily about eight times a minute, meanwhile moving about from tree to tree about 15-20 feet from the ground. Now and then we were able to get a clear look at it through binoculars and were able particularly to note the vari-coloured pattern on the back, characteristic of the male Parula.

When we began to think about recording the song, it flew off to the north where we could still hear it faintly. A little investigation along the next street to the north revealed another row of conifers along the south margin of that street, and we found that the bird alternated between the two spruce stands, spending about 10 or 15 minutes in one stand before returning to the other. I was delighted to find that it sang both of the two major song types of the species: the "zeeee-up" song and a song where several preliminary notes are given prior to a shorter "zee-up" phrase. Examples of both these songs appear on the record of warbler songs produced by Donald Borror and myself. The bird would sing a number of songs of one type and then switch to the other.

At first, I was only able to obtain recordings of the song at a rather low level and with some interference from other sounds. However, by playing back this first recording to the bird, its interest was at once alerted and it came over to investigate. It sang repeatedly from surrounding trees, including an aspen, and it was then not difficult to make a better recording at a higher level. Before we were through, we had quite a group of interested cottagers watching the bird's fine performance.

From the frequency of singing at the time of day when we first heard it, I imagine that the bird had set up a territory to take in just about the only conifers for some considerable distance around, and was stead-

ily advertising his presence through its singing. The odds against a female hearing him there were surely very great and though it was still singing steadily when we left, I expect that after a few days it would move off to some other location.—W. H. Gunn, Toronto.

ED. NOTE: The Parula Warbler was added to the Sask. list on the strength of Callin's 1956 record from Fort Qu'Appelle (*Blue Jay* 14: 90-91). The *Blue Jay* has since published an earlier record for Emma Lake—one seen June 27, 1939, by Farley Mowat and F. Banfield (*Blue Jay* 16: 158, 1958). We know of only one other record west of Man.—one collected by D. Boag 20 miles west of Turner Valley, June, 1958 (*Can. Field-Nat.* 72: 173-74, 1958).

The Need for Local Bird Records

A message from the President, Manley Callin, Fort San

As the past president, Frank Roy, pointed out in the September, 1958 *Blue Jay*, Saskatchewan is very badly in need of an up-to-date book on the birds of the province. Roy dealt with the subject in some detail but it is a subject which must be kept alive and, therefore, merits repetition.

A book on the birds of Saskatchewan will be an ambitious project—it will require a tremendous amount of work in sorting and analysing thousands of records from all parts of the province. Regional lists are essential and will play a very important part in the compilation of a new provincial list; and the more regional lists that are submitted the more accurate, interesting and successful the provincial list will be. During the next year or two the Society expects to receive for publication lists covering the Qu'Appelle Valley, Carlton, Cumberland, the Coteau region in the elbow of the South Saskatchewan River, Saskatoon, and Regina. However, these areas represent only a small part of the province and more lists are needed. Every area is important and undoubtedly every person who has kept even a minimum of records can add information of value. There may be gaps of months or even years in your records; you may have only isolated records; your list of species may be large or it may be small; your area may be close to an area covered by a list. Please do not be diffident on account of such factors—your records are needed.

Information is needed on spring arrival dates, spring departure dates of transients, nesting records, fall arrival dates of transients, fall departure dates, and also general information such as wintering of migrants, definite population changes, and be-

haviour. Some birds are rare or uncommon in the entire province, others may be scarce in only some parts of the province. Your notes should include **all** records of species which are rare or uncommon in your area, even though they may be common in other areas. Please do not feel that you do not have enough information to be worth recording or submitting it—any part of the above information is of value.

Depending upon the discretion of the Publications Committee, available finances, etc., your list may be filed for reference, reviewed in the *Blue Jay*, mimeographed, or even printed. The most important thing, however, is that you submit your records so that they can be used in compiling a summary for the province. Every expert, advanced or amateur observer in the province probably has records which are needed for general or specific inclusion in a provincial list.

A number of our members have already been active in this regard. Some years ago Dr. Stuart Houston of Yorkton, Maurice Street of Nipawin, and Ronald and Donald Hooper of Somme compiled check-lists of the birds in their areas. They are to be heartily congratulated for their efforts, and the rest of us could not show our appreciation in any better way than to follow their example. Members who have kept records of birds will get a great deal of satisfaction in making a summary of their information. Members who have not kept records will get a great deal of satisfaction in starting to do so. This is the year of the A.O.U. meeting in Saskatchewan and a most appropriate year for us to resolve to record our observations and to make them available to our Society.

In Memoriam: Clifford Carlyle Shaw

by Margaret Belcher, Corresponding Secretary, S.N.H.S.



CLIFF SHAW

As this issue of the **Blue Jay** goes to press we sadly record the death of Cliff Shaw in Yorkton. He died in hospital on Monday, July 13 after a heart attack which he took that morning in his office. The funeral was held in St. Andrew's United Church on Wednesday, July 15 and he was buried in the cemetery which, as a member of the town planning committee, he had helped to beautify.

Clifford Carlyle Shaw was born September 13, 1907 at Elgin, Manitoba. His family moved in 1918 to Bulyea, Saskatchewan, where Cliff went to school, later attending Regina College and the Success Business College. Then followed a multiplicity of jobs in the depression years, with two happy summer interludes spent on museum assignments: in 1934 he collected insects at Waskesiu for the British Museum, and in 1936 he spent the summer months with a friend digging up prehistoric animals, hunting Indian artifacts, and so on.

Cliff Shaw joined the staff of the **Leader-Post** in Regina in 1941 and in 1944 was transferred to Yorkton as manager of the Sifton News Bureau. Through his work with the three newspapers — the Regina **Leader-Post**, the Saskatoon **Star-Phoenix** and the Winnipeg **Free Press** — Cliff Shaw was known to many people on the prairies. Yet few people knew how worthwhile and how varied were the contributions which he made to the life of his community and this prairie country. As his newspaper colleague Harold Long-

man, provincial editor of the Regina **Leader-Post**, observed: "It is traditional in the newspaper world that people who are employed in it get little personal publicity. It is by way of tribute to him that I say that his wide knowledge of many things and his widespread interests would have made him a subject worth writing about had he himself not been a newspaperman."

In addition Cliff Shaw was given to saying very little about himself for he was the most modest of men. **Blue Jay** readers will know that he was a member of the Manitoba Natural History Society, secretary of the Regina Natural History Society, past president of the Yorkton and Saskatchewan Natural History Societies, and former editor of the **Blue Jay** (following Mrs. Priestly's death in 1946). Many readers will **not** know that he was also past president of the Yorkton and Saskatchewan Horticultural Societies, vice-president of the Yorkton Museum Association, member of the Manitoba Museum Association, the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society, the Entomological Society of Canada, and the Coleopterist Society of America. The most complete collection of Saskatchewan beetles (now in the provincial Museum) was made by Cliff Shaw.

"Cliff Shaw endeared himself to us in the Saskatchewan Natural History Society by his whimsical sense of humour, his appreciation of all things in nature and his spontaneous friendliness. He had that natural instinct of hospitality (shared by his wife Ruth) that made you feel welcome even when the Shaws themselves were not at home, to wander in Cliff's delightful garden and enjoy his charming collection of native plants. We have found it very hard to take leave of our good friend Cliff.

The community to which he gave so much is establishing a Cliff Shaw memorial fund to provide nature books for the Yorkton Public Library and a cup for annual competition in the Yorkton Horticultural Society. To this fitting tribute will be added the appreciative recognition, on the part of all those who knew Cliff Shaw, of his many talents and his personal integrity.

Baker's Star Tulip, Mariposa Lily

Calochortus apiculatus Baker



Photo by W. C. McCalla..

This is one of a group of beautiful plants whose species are most abundant on the Pacific Coast. Dr. Abrams in his Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States describes 41 species and 8 varieties. Of these, two or three are found in British Columbia and only this one in Alberta where it seems to be confined to the Waterton Park area, growing on grassy slopes and in open woods. Stems are 8 to 16 inches high bearing one to six flowers, sepals pale green, petals creamy yellow with erect yellow hairs on the inner surface. Shown here 70% natural size.

The Isabel M. Priestly Plant Collection

by George F. Ledingham, Regina



Mrs. Priestly with American Bittern.

Recently I had the pleasure of going through a collection of some 500 sheets of pressed and mounted plants. These plants had been donated to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History some time ago but they had not been sorted or filed with the specimens in the Museum herbarium. Having now filed these specimens for the Museum, it gives me considerable pleasure to acknowledge the gift in the **Blue Jay** and to express appreciation to the many people who must have helped with this collection.

Chief credit for the collection of 500 pressed plants must go to Mrs. Isabel M. Priestly. Mrs. Priestly was born in Newbury, Berkshire, England, on July 23, 1893. She studied botany in England, Germany, and Switzerland and her interest in plants continued until her death on April 23, 1946. She married in 1918 and after living in Winnipeg and Calgary she moved with her family, including two sons and one daughter, to Yorkton in 1935.

Most **Blue Jay** readers will know the name Isabel M. Priestly, for it

appears on each copy of our magazine. Mrs. Priestly took the lead in organizing the Yorkton Natural History Society and with the help of a small group of young people she mimeographed the **Blue Jay**. The name of the newsletter was chosen by the young people because it was their aim to share their knowledge just as Sammy Jay in the Thornton Burgess stories told of things he saw. These young members of the Yorkton Natural History Society were an active group and getting out the **Blue Jay** was only one of their projects. Their energy and enthusiasm were responsible for the birth of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society which now has nearly 3,500 members.

The Isabel M. Priestly plant collection exists because Mrs. Priestly wanted to know the plants of the Yorkton area and because she knew how to collect, identify and care for a plant collection. Each specimen sheet has a neat label giving all the important data. The real purpose of this study collection was to develop the interests of the young members of the Yorkton Natural History Society and to teach them the food plants of ducks and other wildlife. The accompanying table shows the kind of work that Mrs. Priestly was doing in this regard.

Not only was the plant collection of value in teaching the plants of the area, but it also inspired other related activities. The drawing of the Shooting-star by Joy Nixon, which was with the collection, shows such another activity encouraged by Mrs. Priestly.

Mrs. Priestly's influence with the young members of the Yorkton Natural History Society has also been evident in other branches of

YORKTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

FAMILY	Fabaceae		
SPECIES	Atelophragma alpinum		
COMMON NAME	Northern Atelophragma		
LOCALITY	Bredenbury	HABITAT	Bluffs
DATE	July 4 1945	COLLECTOR	I.M. Priestly

natural history. Stuart Houston continued the work begun by Mrs. Priestly in listing the birds of the Yorkton area, and published a check-list of the "Birds of the Yorkton District, Sask." (Can. Field-Nat., Vol. 63, No. 5, Sept-Oct. 1949). More recently he has been working on the "Birds of the Saskatchewan River" which will be Special Publication No. 2 of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society. W. H. Beck developed his schoolboy enthusiasm for all wildlife, and has published "A Guide to Saskatchewan Mammals" (Special Publication No. 1, Saskatchewan Natural History Society, 1958). Both Houston and Beck were members of that original group of young people who formed the Yorkton Natural History Society and helped to put out the first **Blue Jay**.

It is unfortunate that Mrs. Priestly's death interrupted her serious study of the plants of Yorkton for her work was nearly complete. In her collection I was pleased to see about 40 species of *Carex* sedge collected by myself and sent to her before her death. She had been determined to learn even the most difficult species. I feel certain that given a few more years she would have completed her study and published a list of the plants of the Yorkton area. As it is, the Isabel M. Priestly plant collection is a valuable asset in the Saskatchewan Museum



Sketch by Joy Nixon
Shooting-star.

of Natural History where it gives real evidence of the wild plants growing in the Yorkton district. It is to be hoped that other individuals or clubs will make collections of the plants growing in their area and that these, too, will eventually be stored in the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.

TABLE OF DUCK FOOD PLANTS AT ROUSAY LAKES			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Distribution at Rousay Lakes	Parts Consumed
Potamogeton*	Pondweed	Abundant	Seeds, roots, stems, leaves
Scirpus	Bulrush	Abundant	Seeds
Chara	Musk Grass	Not common	Whole plant
Polygonum	Smartweed	Common	Seeds
Myriophyllum	Water Milfoil	Abundant	Seeds, plant as a whole
Carex	Sedge	Abundant	Seeds
Sparganium	Bur-reed	Common	Seeds
Fluminia festucacea	White-top	Abundant	Seeds
Glyceria grandis	Manna Grass	Abundant	Seeds
Eleocharis	Spike-rush	Abundant	Seeds, roots
Sagittaria	Arrowhead	Not common	Seeds, roots
Lemna	Duckweed	Common	Whole plant
Ranunculus	Buttercup	Common	Seeds, roots, leaves
Hippuris	Mare's Tail	Common	Seeds, plant as a whole
Symphoricarpos	Snowberry	Common	Berries
Rosa	Wild Rose	Common	Berries

*Potamogeton: Most important plant food of ducks.

“Murphy’s Cousin” (*Solanum triflorum*)

by Keith Best and Archie Budd, Swift Current

WILD TOMATO



The majority, if not all, members of the Solanaceae or potato family have certain poisonous properties. The foliage and the fruit of the potato are poisonous and the foliage of tomatoes should not be eaten. Our Saskatchewan native of this family is the Wild Tomato or Three-flowered Nightshade (*Solanum triflorum*). This plant is an almost prostrate, hairy annual with leaves from one to three inches long and very deeply lobed. The flowers are rotate, from a quarter to three-eighths of an inch in diameter and white in colour. They resemble very small potato flowers and are, of course, in the same genus. The fruit is a small globose berry about half an inch in diameter and of a dull green colour.

Before the settlement of the prairies this weed was found on disturbed soil such as badger or gopher mounds or the eroded trails to fords or water holes and so it has some-

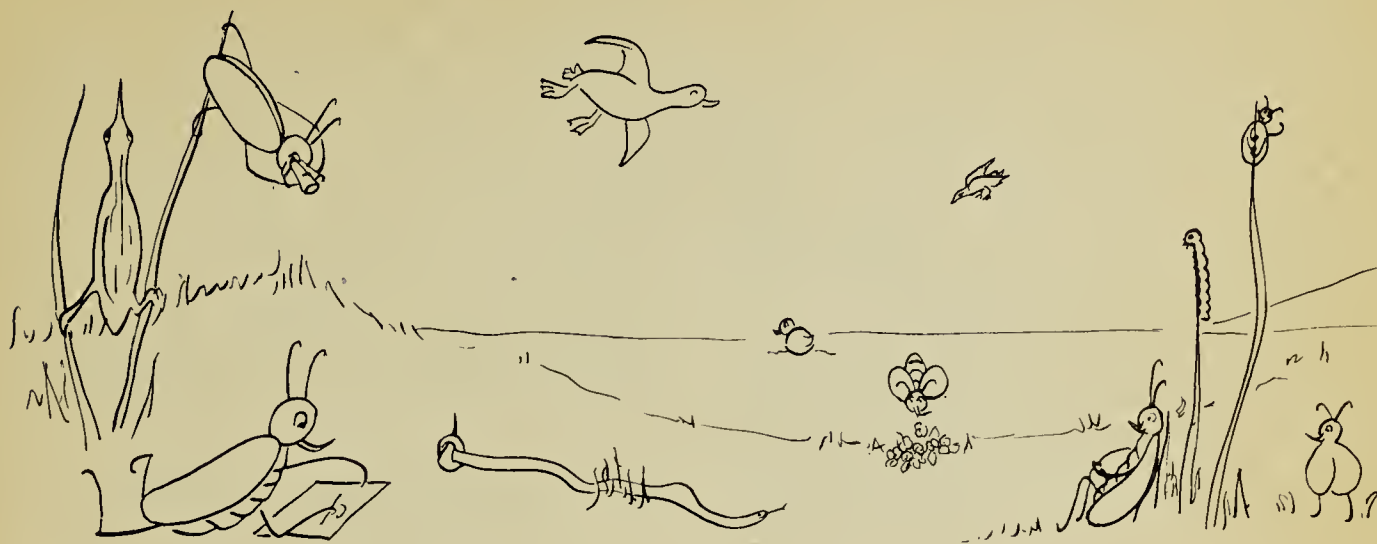
times been called “dog-town weed.” When the homesteaders came it found ideal conditions on fireguards and in farm gardens where it became very plentiful.

In addition to being a “moisture greedy” weed this plant has other bad characteristics. Its succulence makes it difficult to destroy and the large, flat plants of Wild Tomato when hoed or pulled out and turned upside down will send out numerous tiny, white, adventitious rootlets from the stems if the soil is at all moist, anchor themselves and continue to mature. It is also a host of the Colorado potato beetle or “potato bug” and helps to ensure the survival of these pests in the absence of potatoes.

While the ripe fruit was used as food by the Indians and many of the homesteaders relished it when made into jam or preserves, some folk found it badly upset their stomachs, the writer being amongst these.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' SECTION

Edited by **Joyce Dew**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History



Contest Rules

Any young person may submit material for this section of the **Blue Jay**. The entries must be first hand observations in the form of letters, stories, poems, black-and-white sketches or photographs. Letters should not exceed 500 words. All entries must be accompanied by the name, age, and address of the sender.

Book prizes or magazine subscriptions will be awarded with each issue of the **Blue Jay**. Special prizes will be given from time to time to teachers who encourage their pupils to write or who sponsor nature activities about which the children write.

Send in your nature observations to Boys' and Girls' Section, **Blue Jay**, Miss Joyce Dew, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina. The closing date for the next issue is October 15, 1959.

Prize Winners

Laurie Robinson is given a prize for his description of the owls and their actions. Phrases such as "eyes as round as marbles," "clicking sound" and "a screech almost like a squeal of a young pig," are quite good. Laurie has given us his impression of the owls as he saw them.

A prize goes to Alfred Lange as well for his account of a Coyote's hunt. Alfred's curiosity led him to follow the coyotes and observe their actions.

Snake hunting is an unusual occupation which Daniel Greenlaw seems to have well in hand. He apparently knows what he is doing or he wouldn't be capturing poisonous Copperheads! Daniel's contribution earns him a prize too.

Children are reminded that first-hand observations are wanted. Descriptions that sound too much like something read from a book or drawings that look copied from bird pictures in field guides or from other sources are not wanted. Write about things as you see them, not as someone else has described them. Most of you are doing this, so keep up the good work!

All letters which didn't get printed are being kept on file and we hope to use some of them at a later date.

MEATH PARK "SEA GULLS"

A newly organized Junior Naturalists group at Meath Park sent in a report of their election of officers and the first field trip of the year. The following officers were elected: President, Louis Sach; Secretary-Treasurer, Sylvia Feschuk. On a forty-mile trip the group reports having seen 300 Horned Larks and a number of other birds—28 species in all. At present there are twenty members in the club ranging in age from 10 to 14 years. We should like to congratulate the "Sea Gulls" for their enthusiasm and wish the new club every success.

TAME WAXWING

by Douglas Evart, Moose Jaw, Sask.

In late January my grandfather found an injured Bohemian Waxwing in his back yard.

He took him home and made a cage for him out of window screens and kept him in the cage for about ten days. The bird refused to eat anything for the first three or four days. Then my sisters and I gathered berries from a neighbor's hedge and he began to eat well.

After Grandpa gave him the freedom of the office he was still unable to fly. In a week or two he began to make short flights from the floor to the chairs. Soon he could be seen on top of Grandpa's high safe, so Grandpa thought he was on his way to recovery.

He began to wait for a nice day to let him go. Finally, such a day arrived.

Grandpa took the bird outside and felt that he was ready to go, however, he didn't want to let him go without a good meal. He took him back into the office and fed him. When he took him out again he didn't want to go. Grandpa kept him overnight.

The next day was another nice day. He took him out after dinner. In the tree across the street was another Bohemian Waxwing so he took him across the street and let him go. The waxwing flew up onto the branch where he was immediately joined by the other birds. They greeted each other with great flapping of wings. They flew off into a spruce tree.

THE GOPHER'S UNLUCKY DAY

by Judy Dubasov, age 13, Kamsack, Sask.

In our cow pasture live many many "gophers." By the common term of "gophers," I mean the Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel and the Richardson's Ground Squirrel. Most of these little rodents are so unafraid of everyone that whenever one passes their holes, they poke their heads out as if to say, "No trespassing, Please."

On this particular evening, June 11, the gophers were unusually noisy. All about me, I could hear their high-pitched whistles. I happened to

glance up to the sky and there I saw a Marsh Hawk, circling over the ground. "Uh-huh!" I thought. "Now the little pests will have something to think about."

Suddenly, without any warning whatsoever, the hawk swooped down. All the gophers scurried for their holes, and for the next few seconds, general confusion reigned. But then the hawk flew upward into the cloudy sky with an unfortunate little gopher in his claws.

You can be sure that the whistles of the gophers died down quickly after that little incident.

THE OWL'S NEST

by Laurie Robinson, Maryfield, Sask.

One afternoon as my brother and I were going home from school we were watching for magpie nests. We saw one about six feet high in a large poplar tree. As we came closer we saw a bird's head rise up. When it was in plain sight, we became a little frightened. It was not a magpie nor a crow. It was an owl. It had two long black pointed "ears". It had light brown and white around its eyes. Its back was brown and the



Marsh Hawk with Ground Squirrel in his claws.

by Judy Dubasov, 13, Kamsack, Sask.



Horned Lark—sender did not include name.

tail was a very dark brown, almost black. Its breast was a lighter color with white spots.

As we moved about, the owl watched us very closely. Its eyes were as round as marbles and it kept opening and shutting them. As it opened its eyes they seemed to make a clicking sound!

We made a noise and frightened it off. As it flew away it gave a screech almost like the squeal of a young pig.

After the owl had gone, my brother climbed the tree. There were four white eggs in the nest. They were about as big as a pullet's egg. From our observations we believe this is the Long-eared Owl.

This nest was first discovered on May 28, 1959. On June 12, we looked again and there were three little white owls, one of them had fallen on the ground. It seemed very weak but we put it back in the nest.

Editor's Note: The clicking sound referred to here is probably "bill-clapping." Some owls clap their bills when alarmed.

COYOTES' HUNT

by Alfred Lange, age 14, Broadview, Sask.

One evening when I was walking along the road to get the cows, I was surprised to see three coyotes running slowly along the grassy level hay flat. I didn't scare them off for I was surprised to see them suddenly crouch low to the ground, as they

started up a hill. I didn't understand the meaning of this, but I was going to find out. I walked to the other side of the hill and watched. I saw seven grouse dancing in circles at the top of the hill. Two coyotes were slowly circling to the left and the right of the third, who was just lying closer to the birds. When the coyotes were about two-thirds of the way around the hill, they stopped and started to crouch in on the grouse. The grouse didn't realize any danger was near and kept dancing. When the coyotes were approximately two yards away from them, they slowly rose and jumped. At the sight of danger five grouse flew up but two were killed by the coyotes. The coyotes having killed the grouse, started off across the flat in the same way they had come. This was the first time I saw coyotes hunt grouse but it was very interesting.

THE COPPERHEAD

by Daniel Greenlaw, age 11, Columbia, Missouri, U.S.A.

Early each summer I always go snake hunting. This year I found more than I was hunting for. I was merely looking for Ringnecks when I turned over a rock a-n-d s-a-w a **Copperhead!** This foot-long snake was under a rock by a railroad track which runs along beside a creek. After I gathered my wits, I grabbed a dead tree limb and broke it so

that it had a fork in it. When I got close to the snake, I thrust the stick over the snake right behind the head. Then I took the plastic ice cream carton I'd brought to put the Ring-necks in, and slowly but surely slipped it under the snake's head. Then, using the stick, I pushed it in the container and snapped the lid on. After I got home I got a better box and took it over to the Biology Dept. at the University of Missouri.

OUR NATURE HIKE

by Brenda Gudelot, Kinistino, Sask.

Last Friday we visited a Screech Owl's nest. The mother owl was 10 inches in length. The mother's "ears" were so long you could see them on the nest for a few minutes when we first came. The mother stayed close to the nest. She was so close that Mr. Isinger took a picture of her.

We also visited a family of Great Horned Owls. The mother and father Great Horned Owl were about 24 inches long. They had two "horns" on the top of their heads. They were both grey in color. The nest was about 20 feet up in a tree. Their nest was made of twigs. Garry climbed the tree and put one baby owl in a pail and lowered it down. The mother stayed quite a distance away from us. The owl made a noise that sounded like this, "hoo-hoo-hoo."

OUR ROBIN

by Beverly Herriges, age 12, Englefeld, Sask.

One day some boys from our room caught a little robin. They brought it into the classroom and we took care of it. We fed it earthworms every few hours. It eats worms by the dozen. Day after day it learns more things. It can now pick up worms by itself. It is able to fly short distances. The little creature hasn't got his red breast yet. When he is hungry, he is a real little chatterbox. One of us just has to go and give him some worms. We tied a coat hanger to the cord of the window blind, and from there he watches us.

We will be sad to see him fly away.

PET CROWS

by Keith Turnbull, age 14, Onoway, Alberta.

Blackie and Joe came into our lives early last June. They were ugly and scrawny, typical of all young crows. They were brought up on bread, milk and raw meat, which they would snatch from my hand. Two weeks later they were feathered out and making their first flights. They would delight in "buzzing" people or landing on their heads.

Early in July, Joe made a fatal mistake. Not having learned to fly properly, he crashed into a building and broke his neck. He died next day.

With Blackie left alone, he became more of a nuisance. One day we heard a terrific row in the hog yards. A young tabby had tried using Blackie for food for her kittens. We found him missing a number of feathers, but we noticed the cat kept her distance from then on.

He loved stealing and hiding clothespins, and my mother got fed up with him. Early in October, he flew away and never returned.



Photo by H. Dommasch
Robin feeding young

Mammal Notes

WATER SHREW AT HUDSON BAY.—Mr. E. Kuyt, Ecologist, Wildlife Branch, Department of Natural Resources, collected a Water Shrew (*Sorex palustris*) on June 3, 1959, on a beaver dam about 12 miles east of Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan. Verification of the identity of this rare shrew was made at the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. This is the first specimen reported in Saskatchewan south of the Saskatchewan River. Beck's **A Guide to Saskatchewan Mammals**, Spec. Publ. #1, S.N.H.S., 1958, cites records for Prince Albert National Park and Wollaston Lake.—R.W.N.

CANINE TEETH IN WHITE-TAILED DEER.—How many teeth has a deer? To be brief, its usual dental formula adds up to 32. However, at rather rare times this

normal number may be upped to 34 by the addition to two small canine teeth in the upper jaw, similar to the dentition of the Elk and Caribou. It has been my fortune as a taxidermist to have two heads fetched in to mount having these odd teeth, both White-tailed Deer; the first shot at Minton in 1952, the second one taken at Whitewood last fall (1958). I hope hunters reading this article will check their deer and see whether any with similar canines, or even upper incisors, can be found and sent in for study purposes.

According to Dr. R. W. Nero, of the Provincial Museum, an article in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, "reported upper canines in 23 of 28,000 White-tailed Deer; in one study only two of 4,000 Mule Deer had upper canines." — Elizabeth Barker, Regina.

The Painted Turtle in Saskatchewan

by Charles D. Bird, Kings Park, Manitoba.

In recent years I have been very interested in the distribution of the Western Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta bellii*) in central Canada. This resulted in the appearance of a rather detailed account of the Manitoba distribution in an article published in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* in 1958. Since then my attention was drawn to Saskatchewan when, on July 11, 1958, while inspecting the Gouverneur Dam, one mile west of Gouverneur and forty miles south-southwest of Swift Current, I was very surprised to see an adult Painted Turtle. The animal was sunning on a rock in shallow water below the dam and allowed me to come within 15 yards and make positive identification with field glasses.

I have not seen any previous records of the turtles from this region. If the stream had been connecting with the Missouri, Souris, or Qu'Appelle systems an explanation might be found but the stream was Notukeu Creek which flows into Wood River and then into Old Wives Lake. At the time I thought that this was simply a case of the liberation of a pet collected somewhere to the east, but this thought does not seem

sound now as during a trip to the area this summer the local P.F.R.A. Supervisor mentioned sightings of several turtles in the same area and spoke of more turtles from the same creek near the town of Cadillac.

Correspondence with W. H. Beck, Saskatoon, revealed that to his knowledge the turtles were recorded only from the Qu'Appelle river system in Saskatchewan. My investigations strongly suggest that they may be found in the Souris River system as well but I have seen no records to support this impression. I am wondering if any of the **Blue Jay** readers have made any other observations?

Two turtles, the Painted and the Snapping, should be found in Saskatchewan. The Painted Turtle reaches a length of six to eight inches, it has an olive drab back and an underside that is brightly colored with reds and yellows. This turtle will frequently be found sunning itself on rocks or logs in the shallow water of a warm quiet stream or pond. The Snapping Turtle can attain a much larger size, has a drab back and undersides, a thick muscular neck, heavy jaws, and seldom is found sunning itself.

Amphibians Seen at Moose Mountain Park, Sask.

by Francis Cook, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

WOOD FROG (*Rana sylvatica*)—At this time of year the dominant visible amphibian species in the park. Seen in open grassy areas everywhere usually near an existing or a recently dried-up pond. Few adults were seen; half-grown individuals made up the bulk of observed and collected specimens.

LEOPARD FROG (*Rana pipiens*)—Much less commonly seen than the above species. The largest concentration was around the edge of the golf course pond, although many individuals were seen on the main road through the park, during a heavy rain the morning of June 16 indicating their presence around most ponds in the area.

BOREAL CHORUS FROG (*Pseudacris triseriata maculata*)—Seen and collected in grassy places around the margin of ponds. Heard calling the early morning of June 15 and 16 from ponds in the park.

DAKOTA (CANADIAN) TOAD (*Bufo hemiophrys*)—One chorus was heard during the early morning of

June 15 and one toad was reported captured by a small girl.

NOTE: I have never seen an area that had such a concentrated population of Wood Frogs as Moose Mountain. This is probably the only indication of the influence of northern forest evident in the "herps." Wood Frogs are a woodland species whereas Chorus Frogs and Leopard Frogs do better in more open habitat.

We collected a large series (272) of Wood Frogs for study purposes, and our time was spent mostly in measuring and preserving them. We feel, therefore, that this is not a complete list of the amphibians and reptiles that occur in the Moose Mountain Provincial Park. The Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) and at least one species of garter snake certainly do occur in the park.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Cook has worked with Dr. Sherman Bleakney, former curator of reptiles and amphibians of the National Museum, Ottawa, and he is in Saskatchewan this summer under the National Museum's auspices. He plans to do further work on the reptiles and amphibians of the prairie provinces.

Archaeologist Hired

The Department of Natural Resources is pleased to announce the appointment of Thomas F. Kehoe, Curator of the Plains Indian Museum in Browning, Montana, as the first Curator of Archaeology and Ethnology at the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. In his new position, Mr. Kehoe will plan and co-ordinate the Museum's archaeological programmes and direct archaeological and ethnological research and exhibits.

Thomas Kehoe was born at Janesville, Winsconsin. He took his B.A. degree in Anthropology at the University of Washington, and he is now completing work for his Ph.D. at Harvard.

Mr. Kehoe's work has been deeply involved in Alberta and Saskatchewan prehistory. During the production of many papers and articles on the Plains Indians he has worked closely with Saskatchewan amateur and professional archaeologists and he believes the province holds the key to many of the mysteries of Northern Plains prehistory. In Sask-

atchewan, he expects to investigate archaeological sites that will reveal the ancient history of the northern plains and to correlate these investigations with his previous work in Montana.

Mr. Kehoe is recognised among American anthropologists as one of the leading authorities on Northern Plains archaeology and ethnology. In 1956 he was one of the youngest men to have a biographical sketch in "American Men of Science," and last year he represented the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a candidate for the Woodrow Wilson Public Service Award. His archaeological work has been reported in leading professional anthropological journals and in magazines and newspapers throughout North America and Europe. His monograph on "Stone Tipi Rings in Northcentral Montana" is being published by the Smithsonian Institute.

Mr. Kehoe's wife is also an anthropologist. She hopes to write her doctoral dissertation on Saskatchewan pottery and will work closely with her husband during his archaeological expeditions in Saskatchewan.

The BLUE JAY BOOKSHELF

FEATHERS AND FLIGHT. By Clarence J. Hylander. New York, Macmillan, 1959. Price \$3.95.

This is the sixth book in **The Young Naturalist Series** published by the Macmillan Company. As the title **Feathers and Flight** implies, this is a book introducing birds; it tells how they fly, how they eat, and how they adapt themselves to the various habitats in which they may be found.

The organization of the book is excellent, starting with the 'mechanics' of birds in general, continuing with the grouping of birds into families such as the Oriole (or Blackbird) Family, the Grouse Family, the Hawk Family, etc., and ending with eight pages listing the common and scientific names of the species discussed in these families.

Two factors limit the value of this book as far as young Canadian naturalists are concerned. One is the fact that the Canadian range of many of the common species of birds is not given. The second is that assuming that the book was written for teenagers, the level of writing is inconsistent and many statements would be incomprehensible to the average teen-ager.—Janice E. Briggs, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.

THE SCALLOP. By eight authors, edited by Ian Cox, London, "Shell" Transport and Trading Co., Ltd., 1957.

To mark the Diamond Jubilee of its formation, the "Shell" Transport and Trading Company has published

the story of its well-known symbol, the scallop. This book is of interest not only to the invertebrate zoologist, but to those who enjoy an application of biology to history, art, legend and cuisine. Eight authors have taken topics varying from "Shell: A Word's Pedigree" to "The Badge of St. James" and combined them into a lavishly illustrated, interesting adventure.

We may choose to call this the "Age of Jet Propulsion," but in a tiny animal of the sea, nature has beaten the scientists and engineers to their mighty achievement. The swimming prowess of the scallop, its struggle against its mortal enemy, the starfish, and the colorful description of its structure and design are only a few features of "The Living Scallop," the topic of H. J. Rees.

From the birth of Aphrodite to present times, the scallop is traced as a favourite motif in classical art and architecture. The more adventurous readers will enjoy a pilgrimage to the burial place of St. James, the patron saint of Spain, whose symbol was the scallop. Some may find a glimpse of the knights who bore the shell on their armour very interesting. The Americans, too, salute the scallop in the art and legend of their ancient civilizations. From the Louvre to our modern kitchens, the scallop continues to delight mankind. The intrinsic beauty and glorious past of this symbol so well described in **The Scallop**, makes this a book with a wide range of appeal.—Maureen Rever, Regina.

LETTERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO E. E. SYMONS

Congratulations are due to **Mr. E. Symons** of Rocanville for the enthusiastic membership campaign he carries on for the **Blue Jay**. Recently he put in a real "plug" for the **Blue Jay** in a feature article in "Canadian Weekly Features" (printed by Prairie Publishers Ltd., 1410 Scarth

St., Regina). After describing the **Blue Jay** as "the best dollar's worth of conservation education we know of" he reported having already taken 85 subscriptions in 1959. Mr. Symons not only feels that every member of our society should gain a new member, but that one is really doing a friend or neighbour a good turn by selling him the **Blue Jay**. If the rest of us could work for new

memberships in this effective fashion, the **Blue Jay** would have no financial worries!

Mr. Symons is also receiving congratulations on his private sanctuary at Rocanville. **Dora Bardal** of Wynyard, Sask., writes in this regard, "All honour to Mr. Symons . . . I hope he gets a good write-up in the dailies and weeklies."

WANTED: SEEDS OR ROOTS OF PRAIRIE FLOWERS

Could you put me in touch with anybody who would be interested in sending me seeds of prairie wild flowers, or even roots? Here in the Peace River country we have many of the wild flowers I remember on the prairies, but there are others I feel would become established if introduced, for our conditions favour many which are reported only from such isolated areas as the Cypress Hills.

I have made photo colour slides of around 300 flowers here, so have a fair amateur's knowledge of what exists. Some that are lacking that I should like to try to introduce are: Golden Pea, *Thermopsis rhombifolia* (Nutt.) Richards; the various Pentstemons; Scarlet Gaura, *Gaura coccinea* Pursh; Purple Prairie Clover, *Petalostemon purpureum* (Vent.) Rydb.; Milkweed *Asclepias ovalifolia* Decne (or others); Giant Hyssop *Agastache foeniculum* (Pursh) Ktze.; Blazing Star, *Liatris punctata* Hook; Moss Phlox, *Phlox Hoodii* Richards; Scarlet or False Mallow, *Sphaeralcea coccinea* (Nutt.) Rydb.; Gumbo Evening Primrose, *Oenothera caespitosa* Nutt; Evening Star or Sand Lily, *Mentzelia decapetala* (Pursh) Urban and Gilg.; Purple Cactus, *Mamillaria vivipara* (Nutt.) Haw.

I should be glad to pay postage on any of these I can obtain. If you can send roots, please write to me first.—**Mrs. H. C. Calverley**, 10209 14th St., Dawson Creek, B.C.

PROTECTION OF HAWKS AND OWLS

I read with interest in the June issue of the **Blue Jay** of the attempts which are being made to gain protection of hawks and owls in Sask-

atchewan. I do wish every success to this worthy effort. If posters were supplied to public and high schools they might prove to be very effective because teen-age boys are probably the worst offenders.—**R. F. Klatt**, Esk, Sask.

WITH THE BIRDERS

From **BLADWORTH, SASK.**, **Laurence Beckie** reports a great decrease in nesting Savannah Sparrows, apparently due to the lack of moisture in low areas. Early in the season, however, there were many Horned Larks' nests, and Beckie was continuing to find them up to the time of writing (June 13). He goes around the nests with the machinery, because he has found that the bird cannot find the nest if you cultivate the land where the nest was and then return the nest and eggs.

Beckie also reports "the first nesting Red-tailed Hawks on our land that I have recorded. I found another pair five miles away, and another pair 10 miles from there I have not seen Red-tails nesting here till last year. On June 11 at Horse Shoe Lake I found one aforementioned Red-tail nesting again; a flock of about 10 pair of Scaups, about 5 pair of Horned Grebes, and—to my surprise—one male Western Grebe." Re: Starling, Beckie reports, "they have taken over every spare nook or old woodpecker hole this spring, no matter how remote the spot may be."

From **OXBOW, SASK.**, **Mrs. Keith Paton** writes that they have a Mockingbird again this year, although they are unable to find a nest. They have the Black-billed Cuckoo again too, and a stray Blue Jay at the time of writing (June 17), while neighbours 10 miles away report a Blue Jay too. Mrs. Paton asks about the two small sparrows in their yard; one appears to be "a clay-colored," singing its "buzz" song, while the other has a song like a junco. The bird, which Mrs. Paton thinks is a Chipping Sparrow, has a nest in their spruce tree, very near the ground. The eggs are described as "blue," which is also the colour of the Clay-colored Sparrow's eggs. However, we feel sure that the song and habitat point to this being a Chipping Sparrow's nest. If you get a good view of the Chippie, you will see its rusty cap.

From **SUCCESS, SASK., Mrs. Hugh Nisbet** tells of an increase in Lark Buntings. "One June 10 . . . I noted 10 male Lark Buntings in about three miles' driving. Then on June 12 nineteen were counted in one mile in the same area. Females were present too, but they are not so easily noticed as the black male with its white wing bar. Their song is sweet to hear again. For years I have not seen more than the odd bird. Do you suppose our grasshopper infestation has anything to do with the large number of birds? There seems to be a pair of Meadow Larks about every mile . . . and more Horned Larks this year."

Lark Buntings seem more common this year in other areas of the province. They have been reported by a number of observers at Regina, although no nests have been located. Three males seen at Pilot Butte, June 15 (G. F. Ledingham and others), may have been on territory. The last nesting record for the Regina area dates back to 1949 (Elmer Fox), although Lark Buntings were surprisingly common breeding residents around Regina in the dry thirties. On a trip to Claybank-

Avonlea on June 4, G. F. Ledingham noted Lark Buntings as more numerous than on trips to the area in recent years. John and Mary Shadick found them common along the highway from Moose Jaw to the Cypress Hills (June 19), and noted them again June 26 from Swift Current north (last bird seen just south of Elrose).

From **MINNEDOSA, MAN., Mrs. Elmer Johnson** tells of seeing a flock of Hummingbirds feeding in the gooseberry bushes in her daughter-in-law's garden. "They just reminded me of a swarm of bees . . . they stayed in the bush all night, but left their prickly roost early next morning."

From **URANIUM CITY, SASK., Thomas Heaslip** writes again to tell of the first migrants beginning to come through while "winter is grimly hanging on (May 25)." Returning to the spot where he had seen an early pair of Lesser Yellowlegs the day before, Mr. Heaslip found one bird shot, a practice that he finds too common in the Uranium City area. Among the migrants of interest were a pair of Surf Scoters.

S.N.H.S. Annual Meeting at Moose Jaw October 16-17, 1959

PROGRAMME

Friday evening, October 16.

7.30 p.m.—Meeting of the Executive and Directors at the home of Carl Ellis, 820 Valley View Drive, Moose Jaw.

9.30 p.m.—Coffee Hour. Social get-together for members who arrive Friday evening. Home of Carl Ellis, 820 Valley View Drive, Moose Jaw.

Saturday, October 17.

All sessions in the Auditorium, Saskatchewan Training School.

9.00 a.m.—Registration.

9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.—Business and programme sessions.

8.00 p.m. — Address by Angus Gavin, Ducks Unlimited, Winnipeg.

GUEST SPEAKER

Angus Gavin, general manager of Ducks Unlimited (Canada), is one of the most able and informed naturalists of North America. His knowledge of nature, which he began to acquire as a boy in Scotland, was

broadened during 18 years with the Hudson's Bay Company in the Arctic, and latterly as a staff member of Ducks Unlimited.

Gavin's discovery of the long-sought nesting grounds of the rare Ross' Goose in 1940 made his name a byword among naturalists. In 1941 Gavin's wanderings in the same Perry River district resulted in the discovery of the nesting grounds of the elusive Tule Goose.

A sound, constructive thinker blessed with rare patience, Gavin's thoughts on conservation and Ducks Unlimited work have been heard by audiences throughout the United States and Canada. We look forward to hearing him in Regina.

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Five to 10 minutes of programme time will be allotted to anyone who wants to bring up some matter of interest. If you have kodachromes or other programme material, please

write the Corresponding Secretary, Margaret Belcher, Regina College, before October 10.

NOMINATIONS

Send suggestions for nominations to the Nominations Committee Chairman, Manley Callin, Fort San, before October 10.

RESOLUTIONS

Send resolutions to the Resolutions Committee Chairman, R. W. Nero, Sask. Museum of Nat. Hist., Regina, before October 10.

Resolution re: Preservation of duck-producing marshes. In spite of early drought on the prairies in 1959, the Conservation and Development Branch of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture is pushing two drainage projects as a result of which

two marshy areas, Fort a la Corne and Warner Lake (both excellent waterfowl habitat) will be lost. If you would like to see such areas preserved write the Resolutions Chairman.

NOTICE OF MOTION

In accordance with the decision of the executive meeting at Moose Mountain, June 13, 1959, the following notice of motion is given: **That an increase in membership dues be authorized by the annual meeting.**

According to the constitution a notice of motion involving a change in the constitution must appear in the issue of the **Blue Jay** preceding the meeting at which the motion will be made. Persons who cannot attend the meeting should write the Editor expressing their views on this motion.

REPORT OF THE S.N.H.S. SUMMER MEETING AT MOOSE MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK

June 12-14, 1959

by Elizabeth Cruickshank, Secretary, S.N.H.S.

Mr. Carl Ellis and his committee from Moose Jaw welcomed nature enthusiasts from England, California, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and many sections of Saskatchewan, to Moose Mountain Provincial Park for the annual summer meeting. For Mr. Ellis as programme convener, all problems resolved, the planning of an enjoyable and rewarding meeting had become a reality.

Early morning birdwatching, exciting field trips, flower hikes, a showing of Judge Gordon's fine pictures of the area, made the fifth summer session a great success.

Barn swallows busy building their nest over the entrance to the Chalet fittingly welcomed all attending.

To some the song of the myrtle warbler or the white-throated sparrow was a highlight. Others found tree-nesting cormorants and turkey vultures new sights. Orchids in the woods, highbush cranberry in magnificent bloom among the birch intrigued some. The finding of a warbling vireo's well-hidden nest, a ground squirrel carrying its baby and trying to hide in a bed of wild lily of the valley—all these were to be remembered in different ways by different people.

Then there was the meeting of distinguished guests: A. G. Lawrence,

editor for more than 30 years of *Chickadee Notes* in the Winnipeg Free Press; Dr. Gunn, whose bird song records have made him famous (he is now preparing a record of prairie song); Tim Dixon, world-travelling bird watcher from England; Dr. Deane, enthusiastic birder from Halifax; F. R. Cook from the National Museum, Ottawa; Jack Lane, nest spotter extraordinary from Brandon; Marion Nixon, well-known nature writer; all added so much to the enjoyment of the June weekend. In addition, members appreciated the tireless and generous attentions of the Park Manager and his staff. Thanks too are due the Museum field men who plotted the field trips—Richard Fyfe, Fred Lahrman and Ralph Ostoforoff, and to the programme committee.

It was disappointing to find that some of the members who regularly attend these meetings were not present, but it was a joy to meet other old friends and thrilling to make new ones.

It was Dryden who said:

"There is a pleasure sure in being mad,

Which none but madmen know."

All those people who are "mad about Nature" look forward to the next summer meeting.

Some Stragglers at the Moose Mountain Field Meet

by **Rose McLaughlin**, Indian Head, Sask.

Birders at the Kenosee gathering in June were surprised to spot a Scarlet Tanager and a nesting White-breasted Nuthatch, both of which had strayed far beyond their customary boundaries. Some other notable stragglers from distant habitats whom we welcomed to our field meet were Francis Cook of Wolfville, N.S., Dr. Doane of Halifax, Dr. Gunn of Toronto, and Tim Dixon of Bournemouth, England.

Francis Cook is spending the summer in southern Saskatchewan, collecting amphibians and reptiles for the National Museum, and arranged his work in the Moose Mountain area to coincide with the field meet. Studying for a degree in biology, Mr. Cook plans to base his thesis on this field of research. Small fry at the meet were fascinated by his netting operations and became his eager assistants for the day.

Dr. Doane of Dalhousie University was attending sessions of the conference of Learned Societies, held this year at Saskatoon in connection with the Saskatchewan University's golden jubilee activities. An enthusiastic birder, he inevitably fell in with Frank Roy who brought him to Kenosee.

Dr. Gunn of Toronto, field secretary for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, has been in the west this spring doing bird recordings at the Delta Waterfowl Station, Delta, Manitoba, and he made a point of being at Kenosee for the SNHS field meet.

Tim Dixon, a young English lawyer, was on his way home from Australia. Being a member of the birding fraternity, a letter of introduction to Dr. Ledingham brought him to the field meet. Tim has a wager with his fiancée that he will have identified 600 birds by the time he gets home again, and Kenosee added a welcome number to his list which is now climbing through the 400's.

Also straying well to the west of their customary range were a number of Manitoba people, including Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Lawrence, Mr.

and Mrs. P. Stokes, and Mr. W. Adams of Winnipeg, and David Hatch of Oak Lane. Mr. Lawrence is well-known because of his "Chickadee Notes" column which ran in the Winnipeg Free Press for 33 years. At Kenosee Hall on Saturday night he had on display a collection of bird photos, of which one set was taken many years ago in England.

Mr. Stokes is president of the Winnipeg Natural History Society, which he claims is the only one on the continent to hold weekly meetings. Later this summer the Stokes plan to attend the Indian "Mosaics" in Manitoba's White Shell forest reserve; this is a colourful spectacle of native dances which they have witnessed on several occasions and photographed for the newspapers.

Mr. Adams spends his winters at the coast where in recent years he has made a number of winter bird counts for the government of B.C.

Fledgling David Hatch is still going to school, but despite his youth he had the opportunity last summer of spending a week at Brooks, Alberta, with Bill Carrick who is known for his nature photography, especially his work in the outstanding wildlife film "Life in a Marsh."

A notable "first" at Kenosee, though very much on her native range was Mrs. Marion Nixon of Wauchope whose nature column ran for 19 years in the Saskatchewan Farmer.

Also in this class were the guests of the evening session, snowy-haired Peter McLellan of Arcola who has spent his life in the Moose Mountain country, and Judge Percy Gordon, a native of Qu'Appelle who lost his father at an early age and suffered a further blow of fate when in his teens he lost his right arm in a hunting accident.

The pictorial record of a canoe trip which these two oldtimers took through the Moose Mountains in 1947 made a perfect conclusion to a day spent in hiking and driving through the beautiful parkland area of our province.

LIST OF PERSONS REGISTERED

Summer Meeting, June 12-14,
1959

From Saskatchewan: R. Stueck, Abernethy; Mr. and Mrs. P. McLellan, R. Howman, Arcola; S. N. Horner, Creeman; Mr. and Mrs. R. Hanson, Fillmore; M. Callin, Fort Qu'Appelle; Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Buchanan, Francis; L. Martinovsky, Lad Martinovsky, Mrs. F. Hermansky, Gerald; Mrs. E. Hubbard and Linden Hubbard, Grenfell; Eskel Quist, Hazel Quist, Elmer Quist, Hvas; Mrs. V. MacDonnell, Mr. and Mrs. N. Swinton, Jean Bell, Mr. and Mrs. K. Skinner, Mr. and Mrs. R. McLaughlin, Indian Head; G. Connell, Kenosee Lake; Mrs. H. Bray, MacLean; Gary Anweiler, Melville; Mrs. M. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Ellis, John and Mary Jane Ellis, Miss M. A. Ritchie, Mrs. W. E. West, Mrs. R. J. Dunn, Mrs. F. B. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. J. Walker, Moose Jaw; A. Staples, Oxbow; Mr. and Mrs. L. McK. Robinson, Gert-rude Murray, Mrs. E. Cruickshank, R. Otterdahl, Janice Briggs, Joyce Dew, Mr. and Mrs. E. Fox, Reginald Fox, R. W. Nero, B. Shier, L. Carmichael, G. J. Buck, Dr. R. Davis, Sara, Christopher and Jonathan Davis, R. Fyfe, F. Lahrman, Marguerite Robertson, Connie Pratt, Sylvia Harrison, Dr. and Mrs. G. F. Ledingham, Ruth Bennett, Maureen Rever, T. Gentles, Margaret Belcher, Judge P. H. Gordon, Regina; Mr. and Mrs. Symons, Rocanville; Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hogg, Mr. and Mrs. J. Shadick, F. Roy, J. A. Slimmon, Doug Slimmon, Dr. R. M. Bremner, Margaret and Murray Bremner, Mrs. Margery Evans, Saskatoon; D. Pegg, Tisdale; Flossie Bell, Isabel Murray, Weyburn; Mr. and Mrs. C. Shaw, Karen and Douglas Shaw, Yorkton.

From Manitoba: Mr. and Mrs. J. Lane, Brandon; David Hatch, H. Battersby, Oak Lake; Mr. and Mrs. E. Robinson, Wawanesa; Mr. and Mrs. P. Stokes, Mrs. R. K. Helyar, W. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Lawrence, Winnipeg.

Other visitors: F. R. Cook, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa;

W. Gunn, Toronto; B. K. Doane, Nova Scotia; S. Stueck, Ventura, California; T. Dixon, Bournemouth, England.

LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED

Summer Meeting, June 12-14,
1959

SPECIES LIST: Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron (Peter McLellan), Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck (Museum staff), Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser (Gary Anweiler), Turkey Vulture (nest located by Museum staff), Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Sora, American Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Tern, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow (Gary Anweiler), Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch (Museum staff—nest record), House Wren, Catbird, Robin, Swainson's Thrush (J. Hogg), Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Parula Warbler (W. W. H. Gunn), Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Yellowthroat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Redwinged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager (first seen by Mrs. A. G. Lawrence, confirmed by A. G. Lawrence, M. Callin), Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

The 103 species listed above were recorded within the Moose Mountain area; in the open country just outside the parkland the following additional species were noted:

Sharp-tailed Grouse, Upland Plover, Marbled Godwit, Say's Phoebe, Mountain Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Western Meadowlark, Chestnut-collared Longspur.

THE SASKATCHEWAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Officers October, 1958, to October, 1959.

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Chairmen of Committees:

Birds of Prey: R. Bremner; Conservation: F. G.; Bard; Membership R. W. Fyfe; Programme: C. Ellis; Publicity: Mrs. Rose McLaughlin; Publications: C. S. Houston.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

As long as the membership in the Saskatchewan Natural History Society remains \$1.00 we must have additional members to support the high printing costs involved in publishing the **Blue Jay**. Please encourage other people interested in natural history to become members of the society.

MEMBERSHIPS

All persons interested in any aspect of nature are invited to join the Saskatchewan Natural History Society. Membership dues per calendar year are: Sustaining, \$5.00; Regular, \$1.00. The **Blue Jay** is sent without charge to all members not in arrears for dues. Send your membership to the treasurer, Elmer L. Fox, 1053 Gladmer Park, Regina, Sask., Canada.

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California Gull on nest, Pelican Island, Redberry Lake

Photo by H. Dommasch

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**SEND MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE
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